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VANCOUVER • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009 metronews.ca

Local

Impersonators, fans ready for Spears' Circus

pg 4

Sports

Canucks stop Calgary clinch

pg 11

Playoff tickets start selling Saturday

NHL Roughly 1,000 single game tickets for the first round of the National Hockey League playoffs will go on sale Saturday, the Vancouver Canucks announced yesterday.

The tickets will only be available through Ticketmaster, over the phone or online. They will not be available at Ticketmaster Ticket Centres or the box office at GM Place.

The two first-round games start at $105. Each household will be limited to four tickets per round. Tickets for any subsequent games will be announced as they are secured.

METRO VANCOUVER

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz pg 30

LiLo, Ronson officially split

Please recycle

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

RCMP Cpl. Peter Thiessen speaks to media at Pacific Spirit Park near the University of B.C. yesterday. He announced the search for clues in Friday's murder of Wendy Ladner-Beaudry had expanded to the south side of Southwest Marine Drive.

Investigation grows

RCMP deny prominence of murder victim's family a factor

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

The scale of the RCMP's expanding investigation into the homicide of Wendy Ladner-Beaudry in Pacific Spirit Park has nothing to do with the prominence of the victim's family, an RCMP spokesman said yesterday.

The 53-year-old mother of two was found murdered along a park trail on Friday. Ladner-Beaudry is a member of the Ladner family, which Ladner in South Delta is named after.

Ladner-Beaudry

She was co-chair of the B.C. Games Society, chair of the KidSport fund and a former Sport B.C. board member.

Her antecedent was a founding member of Canada's largest law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, and her brother Peter Ladner is a former two-term councillor and mayoral candidate.

"It would be irrelevant whether this victim was prominent, a street worker, homeless or otherwise," said Cpl. Peter Thiessen yesterday, the fourth day since her murder.

"A significant homicide took place here and we're responding to it."

An autopsy has been completed, but investigators are not saying how Ladner-Beaudry died.

RCMP officers expanded their search yesterday south of Marine Drive.

Around 75 officers will remain on the scene, near the junction of Southwest Marine Drive and 41st Avenue, until the end of the day today.

Investigators have received 50 tips and provided a description of what Ladner-Beaudry was wearing to help refresh people's memories.

She wore silver, white and baby blue New Balance running shoes as well as black tights, a white long-sleeved shirt with grey stripes and a black windbreaker with white pin striping.

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Whistler to host medal ceremonies

GAMES Medal presentations will take place in Whistler at the Olympic and Paralympic Celebration Plaza, VANOC confirmed yesterday.

In December, a plan was proposed to have medals presented at the sport venues to save money.

After changes to the design of the Whistler Celebration Plaza, VANOC said that it will not only host daily medal ceremonies, but also nightly concerts.

The return of the medal presentations to the Whistler Celebration Plaza also ensures that Olympic broadcasters will televise the nightly medals ceremonies.

"We are very pleased," said Whistler Mayor Ken Melamed. "I expect the response in Whistler will be very positive. We are looking forward to welcoming the world."

The Whistler Celebration Plaza will also host the closing ceremony for the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. METRO VANCOUVER

Design changes

- The revised cost for the $12.8-million site now includes: $6.8 million from VANOC; $5 million from the Government of Canada, and $1 million from the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

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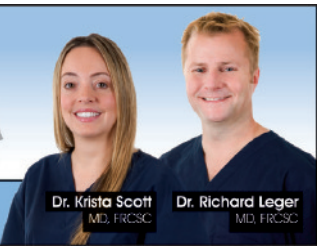

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Donor clinic looking for help
The Oak Street blood donor clinic is looking for 100 people to donate blood during the Easter weekend. Canadian Blood Services needs to collect 8,500 donations across B.C. every month to meet the demand at hospitals, but attendance at blood banks tends to be low on long weekends. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Minnelli to play Richmond show

Liza Minnelli — better known as Lucille 2 to fans of Arrested Development — will be performing at the River Rock Show Theatre in Richmond Friday. The Academy Award-winning actress and daughter of Judy Garland had also been scheduled to perform Saturday, but recently cancelled that show.
METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

CITY PARKS The Pacific Spirit Park Society is encouraging people to take part in its "Companion Walks" program, after a jogger was murdered last weekend. The walks offer an opportunity for people to become familiar with the park's trail system.

ARRESTS Six men have been arrested in Maple Ridge in a police crackdown on prostitution there. RCMP said the alleged "johns," who are from Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, range in age from 30 to 43. One of the suspects also faces drug charges.

COURTS A man who's being investigated in the shooting of a Vancouver abortion doctor in 1994 has lost his appeal in another case in New York, cknw.com reports. James Kopp was given a life sentence in 2007 for shooting and killing a New York doctor. Kopp is also a suspect in the shooting of Vancouver doctor Garson Romalis.

WARRANT A Canada-wide warrant has been issued for a Washington state man who has been charged with threatening his ex-girlfriend and her son, both of whom live in Vancouver. Police say Andrew Petero, 27, could be in the city and has access to guns. Anyone who sees him should call 9-1-1. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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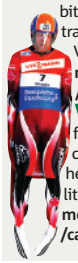
What's online today.



Video Economic woes take bite out of athletes' training in lead up to Vancouver Games at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Canada's first female warship commander says her gender matters little to her crew at **metronews.ca/canada**

Bacon brother appears in court

Alleged Red Scorpions member faces murder charge in Surrey Six killings

JEFF HODSON
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The youngest of the three Bacon brothers made his first appearance in provincial court in Surrey yesterday, charged with murder in the 2007 "Surrey Six" slaying.

Wearing a red corrections-issue sweatsuit with XXXL over the left breast, Bacon, 23, a heavyset man with a buzz cut, stared out at the gallery prior to the proceedings.

His parents were in the courtroom yesterday as was his brother Jarrod Bacon, who appeared alongside Jamie on previously scheduled weapons charges.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Jarrod Bacon leaves Surrey Provincial Court yesterday. His brother Jamie Bacon made a first appearance in court charged with first-degree murder in the 2007 Surrey Six slaying.

Bacon, an alleged member of the Red Scorpions gang, watched the proceedings with apparent interest and nodded to his brother as he was remanded in custody until his next court appearance May 15.

Bacon is charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to kill Corey Lal, 21.

Neither he, nor his two co-accused, have entered a plea.

One of the co-accused, Matt Johnston, 24, appeared by videolink from a corrections facility yesterday.

Johnston is charged with six counts of first-degree murder for the Surrey Six mass killings at the Balmoral Tower on Oct. 19, 2007.

Along with Corey Lal, killed in the hit were Michael Lal, Ryan Bartolomeo and Eddie Narong as well as innocent bystanders Ed Schellenberg and Chris Mohan.

Another co-accused, Cody Haevischer, 24, who is also charged with six counts of first-degree murder, made his first court appearance Monday.

Following the brief appearance, Jarrod, who was wearing a black suit, tie and sunglasses, walked to a white pickup that was driven by Jonathan Bacon, the eldest of the three.

Dennis Karbovanec, who pleaded guilty Friday to the second-degree murder of Mohan, Bartolomeo and Michael Lal, will receive his sentence in British Columbia Supreme Court tomorrow.

Park board looks at hour cuts

BUDGET Vancouver's park board may have to reduce the hours of community centres and pools — even close them on certain days — to meet a budget shortfall of $1.9 million, commissioner Ian Robertson said yesterday.

"Vision and COPE are letting council cut away critical funds without a peep of protest."
Ian Robertson, commissioner

The lone Non-Partisan Association commissioner said city council is trimming the park's budget by $1.9 million and directing parks commissioners to increase revenue by $1.7 million. He blamed the Vision-COPE dominated park board for not advocating for the budget.

"They have been silent," said Robertson yesterday. "Vision and COPE are letting council cut away critical funds without a peep of protest."

He warned that the board might have to cut services, or reduce the operating hours of community centres and pools.
METRO VANCOUVER

Robertson proposes living sites for homeless

HOUSING A proposal made by Mayor Gregor Robertson to get around 550 homeless people off the streets and into subsidized housing by the end of the year was taken to Vancouver city council yesterday.

The plan is to immediately create hundreds of interim housing units at city- or government-owned sites, or through leases with single-room occupancy hotels, and fund them for five years.

"This is the boldest step yet from the city to aggressively deal with homelessness," said Mayor Gregor Robertson. "The city is pulling out all the stops to get people off the street and into housing before next winter."

Robertson said it's now up to the province and private sector to help get the project off the ground.
METRO VANCOUVER

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The remains of Quattro 2 are seen after a fire last October.

Police issue warrant in condo arson case

CRIME A Canada-wide warrant has been issued for the arrest of a suspect in connection with an arson that gutted a Surrey condo development last October.

Police are recommending 24 charges against the suspect, who is expected to be named today.

The 1,100-unit mixed residential and commercial Quattro development was expected to help revitalize Surrey.

On Oct. 1, 2008, one of the two buildings was destroyed in what police called a suspicious fire. The second building was also damaged.

No one was injured in the blaze, but several firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion.
METRO VANCOUVER

$1M donation for international reporting

Canada's first international reporting course has been launched at the University of B.C. Graduate School of Journalism thanks to a $1-million donation from a Vancouver philanthropist. Alison Lawton's donation will fund students travelling abroad to cover important and under-reported issues. METRO VANCOUVER

Olympic creative team named

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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CEREMONIES VANOC's newly unveiled creative-team members for the opening and closing ceremonies already have their work cut out for them — they need to come up with 4,500 volunteer performers to participate in the events.

David Atkins, executive producer and co-artistic director for the ceremonies, said around 5,000 people have applied to perform, but organizers had hoped for 8,000 to 10,000 applicants to have a strong pool of talent to draw from.

"At the moment we're really happy with what we've got," he said. "Even at the end of the volunteer-recruitment program we'll be going out … looking for specific skill sets, so it's a long process."

Atkins said applicants need to be physically fit and enthusiastic. Auditions are being held May 1.

Yesterday, VANOC announced the 16 Canadian choreographers, producers, set and costume designers, and audio lighting specialists who will be orchestrating the events.

The team includes brothers Dean and Dan Caten, or Dsquared2, whose designs have been worn by Madonna, Christina Aguilera, Rihanna, Usher and Britney Spears.

> **"When people leave the stadium next year, they'll be awe-struck and they'll be emotional."**
> John Furlong

Producer Bruce Allen, who represents Bryan Adams, Martina McBride, Anne Murray and Michael Bublé, is also on board.

"This will be the most ambitious single event ever staged in British Columbia," said VANOC CEO John Furlong.

"When people leave the stadium next year, they'll be awe-struck and they'll be emotional."

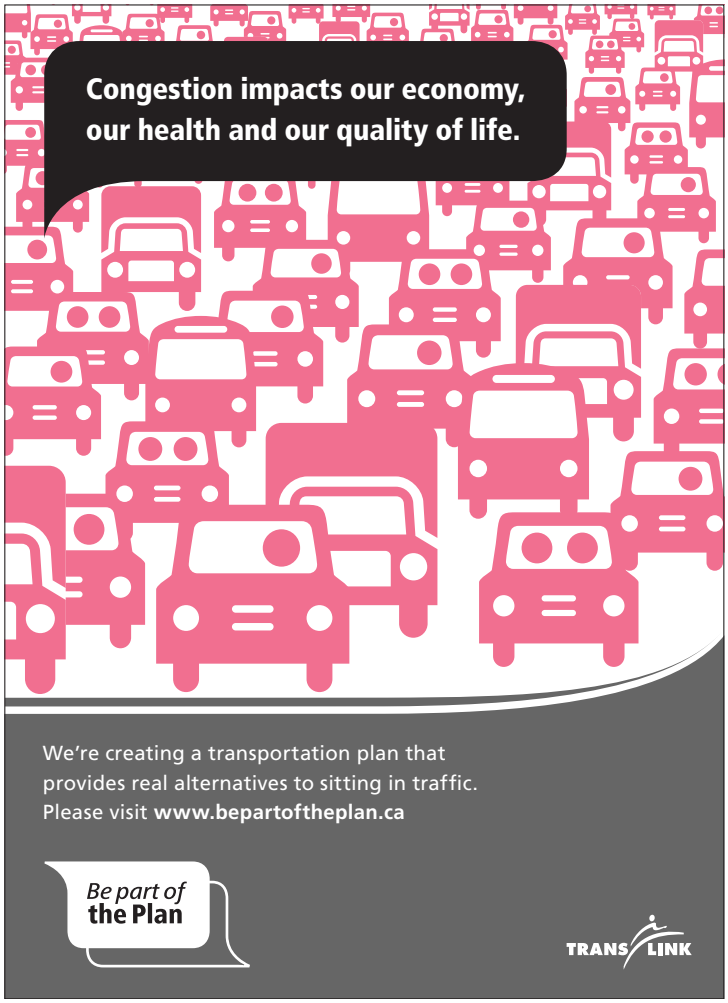
News in brief

RENTER VOTE Vancouver city council is expected to decide tomorrow if people will be allowed to rent out a room in their homes for the Olympics, news1130.com reports. If approved, the city expects up to 1,000 applications from people wanting to rent out rooms.

MISSING The Surrey RCMP are working with police in Ontario to find a missing Brampton, Ont., woman who may be in the Lower Mainland. Poonam Litt, 27, was last seen on Feb. 5 after leaving home for work. Authorities believe she could be in Surrey.

STABBING A man was stabbed in the arm and his gold-coloured Lexus was stolen at a Chevron gas station on Grandview Highway and Renfrew Street last night, news1130.com reports. Police say the driver's injuries are not life-threatening.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Fans still stoked for Spears show

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

She's been a Britney Spears fan for nearly a decade and when the curtains rise on the head-shaving, privates-flashing pop starlet tonight, there's little doubt where Mina Almai will be.

"I've been counting down the days for the past month and a half," said the 24-year-old Vancouverite. "I just love her. Honestly, she's like my favourite. I heart Britney."

Spears will be at GM Place tonight for the 20th stop of her international tour in promotion of Circus, her sixth studio album. It is part of a comeback that's been put in serious jeopardy after countless headline-grabbing shenanigans over the past few years, which include shaving her head, attacking a paparazzo's car with an umbrella, losing her children, getting them back and being placed under conservatorship.

Britney Spears

For Almai, it only adds to the entertainment value.

"I love how messed up she is because it's fun to follow her in the media and read about her in the papers when she's causing havoc," she said. "I enjoy it."

> **"I love how messed up she is because it's fun to follow her … when she's causing havoc."**
> Mina Almai, fan

Daniel Lim, 21, will also be at the show tonight.

"I really don't know what to expect," he said, "but (her comeback) is viable. After Blackout, I think so."

The overall tone of official reviews so far has been OK at best. Some reviewers have criticized the former Mouseketeer's risqué costumes and content, calling them inappropriate for her young fanbase, while others have pointed out that she appears to lip-sync most songs.

Many have said she appears lost among the neon-coloured chaos of clowns, dancers and trapeze artists.

"Somewhere within all the camera flashes, the glitter, the exotic costumes and the vinyl boots stood a forlorn Britney Spears," wrote Francois Marchand of the Edmonton Journal about Monday's show, "doing her thing amidst a spectacle that seemed focused on everything but her own performance."

But Almai cares not for reviewers' high-falutin'.

"They just need to lighten up," said Almai. "People are so critical. It's just something fun with a fun beat."

Spears's Circus tour currently comprises Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.

On June 3, she is scheduled to hit London — where she'll do eight sold-out shows — before wrapping up in Manchester on June 17.

There were recent discussions about expanding the tour to include Australia, though this has not yet been confirmed.

Impersonating Britney 'demanding'

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
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The toughest thing about "being" Britney Spears is learning her choreography.

Angello Floresco, 31, has impersonated Britney more than a dozen times. He's performing tonight at Celebrities Night Club at an after-party when the real Britney ends her show at GM Place.

"Her choreography is intense," he said. "It's physically demanding. Much more than Madonna's."

Floresco, who has also impersonated the Material Girl since 2000, said the two are very different. "Madonna's choreography is a lot simpler and she's more masculine," Floresco said. "Britney is more girly, she's like a little innocent sex kitten."

To prepare for tonight's show, Floresco has been rehearsing three times per week, up to two hours each session, for the past month.

"I watch a lot of videos of her performances. I watch how she moves her hips, her hand gestures, her hair flings, and then I piece together the choreography."

Yesterday, Floresco made sure the honey-blond wig and circus outfit by Vancouver designer Jason Matlo were "just right" and got a spray tan.

"She's known for her deep, dark tans. I have the skin tone of liquid paper," he said.

The best thing about "being" Britney, Floresco said, is embracing her fun personality.

"That's why people gravitate to her."

Angello Floresco, whose stage name is Trixie, as Britney Spears. PHOTO COURTESY ANGELLO FLORESCO

Brit's best/worst

- Best Britney moment: Her return to the spotlight. People thought she was going to commit suicide.
- Worst Britney moment: The whole era between the In the Zone and Blackout albums. She was exhausted.
- For more information visit celebritiesnightclub.com

Lightfoot coming to town for concert
Canadian folk legend Gordon Lightfoot is performing at the Centre in Vancouver For Performing Arts on Friday. The show starts at 8 p.m. METRO VANCOUVER

RICHARD LAM/REUTERS

Vancouver police stand guard near the body of man lying in the parking lot of a gas station yesterday after he was shot dead in what police have called a targeted hit.

Shooting victim ID'd

Death may be related to drug activity: Police

KRISTEN THOMPSON
for Metro Vancouver

Police have identified a man found shot to death outside a South Vancouver gas station as 24-year-old Lionel Yisheng Tan.

"(Tan) was known to police and it appears to have been a targeted shooting related to drug activity, but it's too early in the investigation to confirm that," Const. Lindsey Houghton said yesterday.

The victim was found in the parking lot of a Husky service station at Southwest Marine Drive and 70th Avenue around 9:40 on Monday night.

A convertible BMW — possibly belonging to the victim — was found running at the scene, police said.

Anyone with information is asked to call the police at 604-717-2500 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Camera seizure prompts complaint

RIGHTS A complaint has been filed with the Vancouver Police Board after the camera of a local photojournalist was allegedly seized by an officer at a crime scene where police shot a suspect.

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association wants Vancouver police to clarify its policy on seizing cameras.

David Eby, executive director of the BCCLA, said there have been three recent incidents.

> **"Now a citizen and two media outlets have made ... allegations against the (Vancouver Police Department)."**
> David Eby, BCCLA

"Now a citizen and two media outlets have made high-profile and serious allegations against the VPD concerning police interference in their right to videotape events in the public domain," Eby said.

He pointed out that all allegations involved taking photos of Vancouver police officers either using lethal force or investigating another officer who had used lethal force. "These incidents are not a time for reduced accountability," Eby said. METRO VANCOUVER

RCMP officer reunites widow with war medals

RECOVERY A North Vancouver RCMP officer has helped reunite a Quebec woman with her late husband's stolen Second World War service medals.

Const. Rob Pearson found the heirlooms, which were affixed to a wooden plaque, in a stolen truck last year.

After doing some digging, Pearson learned the medals had been awarded to Pierre Leduc for service in Italy with the Van Doos regiment.

"An invitation for a 75th anniversary at a mill in Gatineau, Que., was also found in the stolen truck," said RCMP Cpl. Marlene Morton.

Pearson contacted the mill, which put him in contact with Leduc's widow, Carmen.

"Pearson arranged for a French-speaking police officer to contact her and explain the situation," Morton said. "She was thrilled." METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

THANKS RCMP in Langley are thanking witnesses for helping officers track down a woman in a stolen car. Witnesses pointed officers in the direction Deanna Lee Jones, 36, had gone, and she was eventually tracked by a helicopter and police dogs. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Planting party in Jericho Beach Park

EARTH DAY On Earth Day, volunteers will plant 4,000 native trees and shrubs in Jericho Beach Park.

The event is being organized by Evergreen, a non-profit organization that aims to improve cities' liveability.

Participants will be offered six planting zones in the west side of Jericho Beach Park.

Planting and festivities for Earth Day Vancouver will take place on April 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. METRO VANCOUVER

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Nokia Siemens eyes Nortel assets

Nokia Siemens Networks has offered to buy key assets from bankrupt Nortel Networks Corp. as it seeks to expand its foothold in the U.S. wireless market. Nokia Siemens made an unsolicited offer for large parts of Nortel's carrier network group. REUTERS

Canada

Mounties win right to unionize

An Ontario court has struck down a section of the RCMP Act, clearing the way for the country's 22,000 Mounties to form a union. Ontario Superior Court Justice Ian MacDonnell said the section of the act that precludes unionization is unconstitutional, "because it substantially interferes with the freedom of members of the RCMP to engage in collective bargaining." CBC NEWS ONLINE

Lawyer challenges terror law

Defence in Montreal trial argues 'jihadi' videos are freedom of expression

Saïd Namouh's computer held all sorts of videos, of American soldiers being blown up, the executions of "infidels," a how-to guide on suicide attacks.

But are these "jihadi" videos, and hundreds of online conversations drawn from the basement computer of this curly-haired Moroccan native with a fondness for Adidas soccer jerseys, the underpinnings of terrorism — or were they simply the goings-on of a man practising his right to free expression?

It's a central question to a terrorism case unfolding in a Montreal courtroom that is challenging the constitutionality of Canada's terror laws.

"This whole business of promoting and advocating jihad is the heart of the case," said Namouh's lawyer, René Duval, outside the courtroom yesterday. "They believe my client has advocated criminal acts through jihad by putting things on the Internet."

> **"They believe my client has advocated criminal acts through jihad by putting things on the Internet."**
> Lawyer René Duval

Duval contends that the terror laws, pushed through Parliament following the Sept. 11 attacks, contravene the constitutional rights to freedom of expression and religion.

"They have the potential to catch both speech that is acceptable and that which is not," Duval said.

Namouh faces charges of conspiracy as well as participating in, facilitating the activities of and extortion on behalf of a terrorist group.

The Crown says Namouh, 36, was a key member of the Global Islamic Media Front, considered a major propaganda arm of such terrorist groups as al-Qaida. It's alleged Namouh edited and disseminated many videos himself.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pro-gun advocates pressure Tories

LEGISLATION Angry Canadian gun owners hope to pressure the federal government into renewing support for a private member's bill to abolish the long-gun registry by withholding donations to the Conservative party.

"I just returned the latest (Conservative Party of Canada) CPC donation envelope, without any $$$, and with the following written across the form in black Sharpie," said a message to CanadianGunNutz.com from someone using the moniker Plinker, who sent back a donation form with the message: "No donation until Bill C-301 is passed. Scrap gun registry." Another, calling himself Soulchaser, said he sent an unsigned cheque for $1,000 and a note: "Support C-301 and this will be yours."

While the effectiveness of the boycott remains to be seen, such a revolt by bedrock Conservative supporters is bound to cause some waves in the party, observers say.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police warned this bill would allow transport of fully automatic and semi-automatic weapons to civilian shooting ranges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Montreal **Circus in town**

CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

Canada's Cirque du Soleil perform a preview of its new show OVO (meaning egg in Portuguese), a teeming world of insects, in Montreal yesterday. OVO will have its world premiere in Montreal on May 8, and will travel to Quebec City and Toronto before touring the U.S.

After years of surpluses, record deficit for Alberta

BUDGET Alberta forecast a $4.7-billion deficit for 2009-2010 yesterday — its largest ever — as the oil boom that had sustained it turned to bust.

Alberta, which delivered 14 straight surpluses as its oil industry pumped out cash, may not be back in the black for four years as it looks to shovel $23.2 billion into infrastructure like roads, schools, housing and health facilities as well as environmental initiatives, the government said.

The combined budget shortfalls could balloon to as much as $10.3 billion. They will be funded out of Alberta's newly expanded $17 billion "sustainability fund," made up of savings from previous surpluses and money that was set aside for capital projects and carbon capture and storage.

The red ink is blamed on projected revenues from energy being slashed by more than half from last year as weak commodity prices and the credit crunch forced the industry to rein in spending.

Unless the economy recovers, the Conservative government of Premier Ed Stelmach will look to chop $2 billion a year in spending during the expected deficit period, Finance Minister Iris Evans warned. But she was coy as to what could get cut.

"We recognize there are only two alternatives — you raise more money, so that means taxing your people, or you reduce your expenditure," Evans said. "We've got some tough choices to make."

REUTERS

Outlawed no more

- Alberta had become so used to surpluses that it in the 1990s it outlawed deficits, forcing the Stelmach government to soften the legislation yesterday in the name of "flexibility." Its last record deficit was $4 billion in 1986-87.

Pocklington case delayed by judge

COURTS A bankruptcy judge in California delayed ruling on whether the former owner of the Edmonton Oilers hockey team should surrender a list of financial assets due to concerns that he could incriminate himself in a related fraud case, his lawyer said yesterday.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Meredith Jury set a June 2 hearing to determine whether Peter Pocklington could refuse to turn over the documents to the U.S. bankruptcy trustee by asserting his constitutional right against self-incrimination, his attorney Brent Romney said.

An attorney for U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee Robert Whitmore could not be reached for comment.

Pocklington, who aroused anger in Canada for trading hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky to a U.S. team in 1988, was indicted last month on two counts of bankruptcy fraud for allegedly hiding assets from the bankruptcy court.

Authorities said they became suspicious when Pocklington listed debts of $19.6 million US and assets of just $2,900 in the Chapter 7 filing in August 2008, and in a subsequent hearing. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted on both charges. REUTERS

News in brief

TELEVISION Canada's federal cabinet is considering a $150 million fund to help private television broadcasters, media reported yesterday. The fund would benefit big private broadcasters like CTV and Canwest Global, though it is unclear whether the publicly funded Canadian Broadcasting Corporation would be eligible for money.

ECONOMY Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday he saw some positive signs that credit conditions in Canada were improving, despite serious strains in some segments of the funding market. In coming days, Flaherty is expected to announce the creation of an advisory committee to help him identify trouble spots in the credit market.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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USA: ONE-WAY Tango Plus fares from Vancouver. Travel must be completed by October 31, 2009.

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$234	$239	$353	$353	$375	$420	$498	$615

International: Fares are EACH WAY from Vancouver and require ROUND-TRIP purchase. Departure dates as indicated below.

LONDON HEATHROW	TOKYO	PARIS	SÃO PAULO	BEIJING SHANGHAI	FRANKFURT[1]/MUNICH[1] DÜSSELDORF[1]	ZURICH	SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
APRIL 8 – 30, 2009 SEPT. 25, 2009 – OCT. 31, 2009	JUNE 1, 2009 – AUG. 31, 2009	APRIL 8, 2009 – JUNE 18, 2009 SEPT. 7, 2009 – DEC. 10, 2009	APRIL 8, 2009 – AUG. 31, 2009	JUNE 1, 2009 – AUG. 31, 2009	APRIL 8, 2009 – JUNE 1, 2009 SEPT. 3, 2009 – OCT. 21, 2009	APRIL 8, 2009 – MAY 31, 2009 OCT. 8, 2009 – DEC. 6, 2009	APRIL 8, 2009 – JUNE 8, 2009 JULY 24, 2009 – SEPT. 21, 2009
$240	$269	$283	$314	$385	$397	$433	$499

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Gay marriage veto overturned in Vermont

Vermont lawmakers yesterday overrode a veto from the governor in passing a bill that would allow same-sex marriage, clearing the way for the state to become the fourth in the nation where gay marriage is legal. REUTERS

World

No needles for hot flashes

Acupuncture may not help relieve hot flashes in women undergoing menopause, a review of past studies has shown. Researchers in South Korea and Britain trawled though medical literature exploring the efficacy of acupuncture in relieving hot flashes, but evidence was scarce. REUTERS

Obama breaks from Bush

U.S. president wins praise in Europe on new approach

U.S. President Barack Obama's eight-day overseas trip yielded success on a top goal: Signalling to the world a new U.S. approach that breaks with the "go it alone" style of former president George W. Bush.

But Obama had more limited gains during his trip to Europe and the Middle East on issues like prodding allies to stimulate the global economy and help in Afghanistan.

In cities from London to Istanbul, Obama got a rapturous welcome to his promise to listen and consult more as he took his first turn on the world stage before heading back to Washington yesterday.

In Turkey, he won plaudits for his declaration that "the United States is not, and will never be, at war with Islam."

But at the G20 economic summit in London, European countries balked at his suggestion that they spend more to try to fight the global recession and shoulder more of the burden in Afghanistan. REUTERS

'No claim' on Iraq

- Obama told reporters he was sticking to the plan to withdraw all U.S. troops by 2011, and said he had assured Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki that the United States had "no claim on Iraqi territory and resources."

Strong aftershocks stall rescue efforts in Italy quake

L'AQUILA Strong aftershocks shook central Italy yesterday and hampered rescue efforts after the country's worst earthquake in decades killed at least 235 people and left thousands homeless.

The strongest aftershock since Monday's quake scattered rescue workers and toppled buildings as night fell on the mountain city of L'Aquila, which bore the brunt of the disaster.

The 5.6-magnitude aftershock was felt in Rome, 100 kilometres to the west.

At least 235 bodies were being stored in a makeshift mortuary outside L'Aquila, local media reported. Some 1,500 people were injured. REUTERS

Moldova **Protests flare**

GLEB GARANICH/REUTERS

A man waves the Romanian flag during a protest outside the parliament in Chisinau yesterday. Thousands of demonstrators denouncing a Communist victory in ex-Soviet Moldova's parliamentary election smashed windows of the president's offices and hurled stones at police.

Man pleads not guilty to stealing Chen sex photos

TRIAL The Hong Kong computer technician accused of stealing 1,300 photos of actor Edison Chen engaged in sex acts with several starlets, has pleaded not guilty in a Hong Kong court.

Edison Chen

Sze Ho-chun, 24, who worked in a computer store in Hong Kong, found and copied the images from Chen's Apple laptop that was taken in for servicing in 2006, prosecutor Hayson Tse told the court. Tse said that Sze then put the images online.

The Canada-born Chen, a hip-hop artist and Asian film star, has apologized and sought to weather the scandal by staying in Canada. REUTERS

N.Y. gunman wrote to media before shooting

BINGHAMTON The gunman who killed 13 people and himself in a New York state immigrant centre sent a letter to a TV station before his shooting spree.

"Of course you need to know why I shooting?" wrote Jiverly Wong, 41, but he never fully explained the reason for the shooting, which took place in the centre where he took English lessons. He made unclear remarks about police harassment he had received before ending with, "And you have a nice day." REUTERS

News in brief

PERU Former president Alberto Fujimori was convicted of human rights crimes yesterday. A three-judge panel convicted him for ordering a military death squad to carry out two massacres that killed 25 people during his 1990-2000 rule, when he was battling guerrillas. Nearly 70,000 people died in two decades of conflict.

GERMANY A 60-year-old cook fatally shot his sister-in-law, wounded two other people and then killed himself in a courthouse in the town of Landshut yesterday. The man was in a legal battle with his in-laws over an inheritance, and suddenly opened fire during a break in proceedings in the hallway of the court. REUTERS

Cures for childhood disease now come delicately wrapped in gold foil.

Next time you're at Shoppers Drug Mart, look for our Lindt Gold Bunny display. Lindt will donate $0.50 from the purchase of each 100g Lindt Gold Bunny to HealthyKids Canada – a fundraising initiative dedicated to paediatric research programs across the country.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Get your head out of sand

Climate change is not a left-wing conspiracy

TheWestView

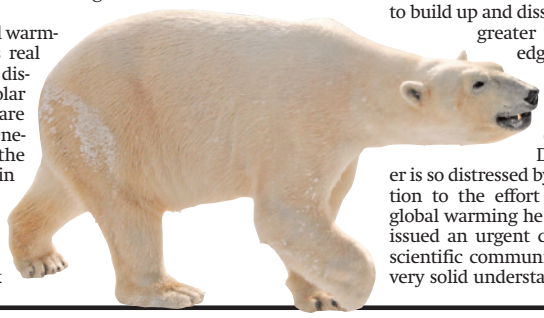
Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

What, I must ask, is the irresistible allure of ignorance?

I understand inadvertent ignorance; I admit to being one of its victims. But willful ignorance is another matter. We're in the middle of an ignorance revival, and I just don't understand what the enthusiasts get out of it.

Take global warming. That it's real is beyond dispute. The polar ice caps are melting! One-third of the summer ice in the Arctic Ocean has melted, and some scientists think the Arctic summer will be ice-free by 2013.



At the South Pole, an ice bridge holding the Wilkins shelf to the continent gave way over the weekend, which means the shelf, about the size of Jamaica, is in danger of sinking into the sea, one of 10 such shelves, some 10,000 years old, now shrinking.

Despite these and a million other signs, global warming deniers persist in seeing the whole problem as some kind of cooked-up left-wing conspiracy to deprive us of our right to drive a Hummer.

This attitude is most firmly entrenched in places like the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, based in Winnipeg, which bills itself as an "independent think tank." I'm glad they cleared that up: It's hard to tell if anyone is thinking by going to their website, where piece after piece dismisses the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which won the Nobel Prize for its work on global warming, as some kind of fraud.

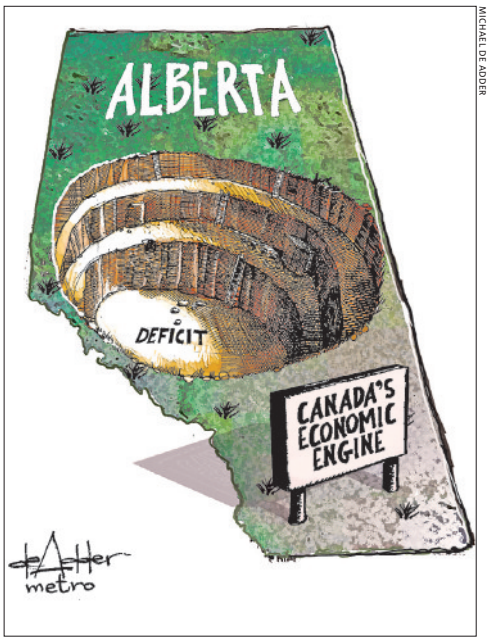
For example, it huffs the head of the panel is an economist, not a scientist. So OK, here's a scientist: Dr. Andrew Weaver, a climatologist and lead author of the landmark IPCC report that won the Nobel for "efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change." Dr. Weaver is so distressed by opposition to the effort to fight global warming he recently issued an urgent cry: "The scientific community has a very solid understanding of what is causing global warming: It is overwhelmingly because of the combustion of fossil fuels."

Dr. Weaver is alarmed because ignorance is not confined to the right. From the left, "environmentalists" have taken to opposing every effort to switch to alternative, non-fossil fuel sources: Wind turbines allegedly endanger birds, hydro lines cause brain cancer, run-of-river hydro generation kills rivers. Even if it doesn't.

So, although the polar ice caps are melting, although real deal scientists such as Dr. Weaver try to warn us that time is running out to address global warming, we continue to try and argue it out of existence or complain the move to alternative energy has its own issues.

Good, there's that threat dealt with. I'll just stick my head back into the sand, and with any luck I'll be long gone by the time anyone has to reap the heat.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: How will raising the minimum wage affect the Canadian economy?

Stephanie Tsokas
age 35, Vancouver

A: I don't think it will help. People getting paid minimum wage won't see the quality of their lives increase from another dollar.

Amin Toufani
age 25, Vancouver

A: To me, it's counter-productive. If businesses have to pay more, then they won't hire as many. It's going to translate to a bit of a cutback.

Nicole Pender
age 25, Vancouver

A: I don't know where I stand. I think it could be a good thing to raise the minimum wage.

John Daley
age 21, Halifax

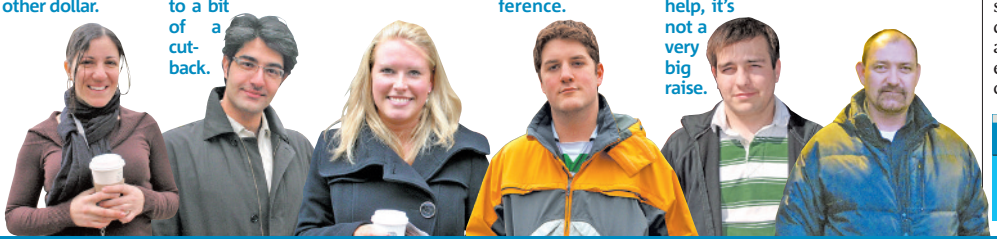
A: People are going to spend what they need to spend anyway. I don't think a few cents is going to make a big difference.

Tom Ross
age 26, Calgary

A: I don't think it will really make a difference because people are already making more than the minimum wage. I don't think it will help, it's not a very big raise.

Bill Alexander
age 45, Toronto

A: Overall, I do think it's a good idea because it helps new immigrants and uneducated people make their way in society.



Letters

Gunning it

Re: Gun control victim in Tories legislation (April 7).

In my opinion Ms. Cukier has attempted to cloud the issue of long-gun registration in Canada with statements such as "powerful semi-automatic rifles like the one used by Marc Lepine." This surely is meant to draw on peoples emotions. Most semi-automatic rifles are in fact less powerful than most hunting rifles.

Who does Ms. Cukier believe the "gun lobby" is? They are ordinary Canadians who believe criminals should be punished and that some of there privileges as citizens of Canada are in danger.

Firearms licensing has been in place in Canada since 1979 for long guns and yes, Canada did try long-gun registration during the Second World War. It was not effective and as with the current legislation unpopular.

The statistics Ms. Cukier states may have nothing to do with firearms legislation and more to do with social economic cycles of our country. As she notes, 32 people were killed in 2007. Canada was enjoying an economic high, whereas in 1991 we were in an economic downturn.

JOHN MORRISSEY, AIRDRIE, ALTA.

Gun argument in the bin

Re: Gun control victim in Tories legislation (April 7).

This article has led me to decide I will no longer be getting any sort of news from Metro as this article is clearly one-sided and a waste of paper.

I noticed how Wendy didn't mention the federal gun registry is illegal as the right to restrict personal property is not the right of the federal government, but the provincial government.

After reading this article I thought was being written by someone close to the gun control movement, she would have at least had most of her facts right.

I would like to thank you for your time and am pleased to inform you your paper is now in the recycling bin so it may be used again for a better purpose.

LEVI KEYS, CALGARY

Metro Online Poll Results

74% SAID YES	Do the risks of printing more money outweigh the benefits? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	26% SAID NO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

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Casino shares fall on gaming data
Casino stocks fell yesterday alongside a broad market sell-off after fresh data showed February gaming revenues in Nevada fell 18 per cent from a year earlier. REUTERS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Car warranties backed

Ottawa vows coverage even if GM, Chrysler fail

Canada will guarantee the warranties of cars sold by General Motors and Chrysler under a new program announced yesterday to help prop up the struggling carmakers, even as Ottawa said it must be ready for their possible bankruptcy.

Late last month the government, which says a disorderly bankruptcy in the sector would cause enormous damage, rejected restructuring plans presented by both companies but announced $4 billion in bridge financing for them.

Warranties on new vehicles would be guaranteed by a $185.3-million commitment program, regardless of whether Chrysler and GM go into bankruptcy protection.

The program will be funded with cash contributed by the automakers and a loan from the federal government to pay for repairs covered by the automakers' warranties on each new vehicle sold until "the period of uncertainty" ends.

"It will help consumers know that they have confidence when they buy a vehicle from GM and Chrysler during this uncertain period."
Tony Clement, industry minister

The United States has already announced a similar measure.

"It will help consumers know that they have confidence when they buy a vehicle from GM and Chrysler during this uncertain period, that their warranty ... will be there for them," Industry Minister Tony Clement told a news conference.

Clement also said the government will increase by $700 million the amount of accounts receivables insurance that Export Development Canada can offer to auto-parts suppliers so they can get money owed.

He said the additional insurance support to EDC brings Ottawa's total exposure to auto-parts suppliers to $1.25 billion, which is about 20 per cent of the $5-billion auto-supplier support program announced by the U.S. government on March 19, and proportional to Canada's share of the North American auto market. REUTERS

U.S. slaps duty on some lumber

TRADE The United States will slap a 10 per cent duty on some imports of Canadian lumber after Ottawa failed to abide by a trade tribunal ruling, the U.S. trade representative said yesterday.

The new tax in the long-running bilateral dispute between the world's two biggest trading partners comes amid growing concerns over nations around the world walling off their borders to protect jobs.

The U.S. economic downturn and collapse of the U.S. housing construction market has led to massive layoffs in both the U.S. and Canadian lumber industries.

The duty will remain until the United States collects $54.8 million US.

Canada was found in breach of its softwood lumber trade deal with the United States earlier this year, when the LCIA, formerly the London Court of International Arbitration, ruled Canada miscalculated quotas for some lumber exports for the first half of 2007.

The LCIA said Canada should collect a 10 per cent tax on the value of its softwood lumber shipments from Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba until $68.26 million Cdn is collected. REUTERS

Rejected offer

- Canada offered last week to pay $46.7 million to the United States to comply with the tribunal ruling, but the U.S. rejected the offer.

Google helps newspapers, lawyer says

WEB Google Inc. helps newspaper websites make money through online advertising and does not misappropriate their content, a lawyer for the search engine said on the company's blog yesterday.

The blog post comes a day after The Associated Press, a 163-year-old newswire paid for by its member newspapers, said it was working on a new plan to protect its content from misappropriation on the Internet.

Some journalists have complained that search engines run by Google and Yahoo Inc. make millions of dollars off their news, and that it should belong to them instead. REUTERS

Business in brief

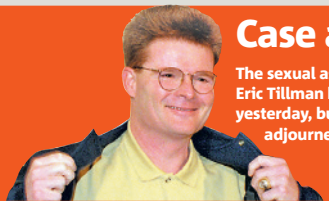
ENERGY Biodiesel supplier Canadian Bioenergy and crop-processer Archer Daniels Midland Co. are carrying out a feasibility study that could see Canada's largest canola biodiesel plant built in Alberta.

FORECAST Two-thirds of U.S. chief executives plan additional layoffs and expect sales to decline in the next six months as their confidence in the economy continues to fall, according to a new survey.

MEDIA The senior lenders of Canwest Global Communications Corp. have agreed to extend talks until April 21 over borrowing conditions for its media unit, the company said yesterday. REUTERS

Ginobili done for year
The San Antonio Spurs' NBA title hopes took a major blow late Monday with the revelation that guard Manu Ginobili will miss the remainder of the season and the playoffs with a right ankle injury that has kept him out of 19 games since the all-star break. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Case against Tillman pushed back

The sexual assault case against Saskatchewan Roughriders general manager Eric Tillman has been pushed back for two weeks. Tillman was not in court yesterday, but a lawyer appearing on his behalf asked that the case be adjourned to April 21. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Division title still up for grabs

NHL RESULT

Flames 1 Canucks 4

VS

SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

THE SKINNY: The Canucks kept their dreams of winning the Northwest Division alive thanks to 46 saves from Roberto Luongo and two goals from Mattias Ohlund. Rick Rypien and Henrik Sedin also tallied for the home side while Jarome Iginla replied for the visitors.

THE WALL: Luongo stopped all 21 shots he faced in the first period, just one less than he stopped all of Sunday against the Avalanche.

THE SITUATION: The Canucks and Flames both have 96 points and two games remaining. Calgary has the tie-breaker with more wins, Vancouver needs to gain one more point than the Flames over the final two games.

THE ANSWER: The sizable contingent of Flames' fans got boisterous after Iginla tied the game at one early in the second period, but those cheers were drowned out by the locals when Ohlund restored Vancouver's lead just 22 seconds later.

THE NEXT GAME: Vancouver plays its final home game of the regular season tomorrow night when the LA Kings come to town.

LYLE STAFFORD/REUTERS

Vancouver Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo stops a shot from Calgary's Jarome Iginla last night in Vancouver. The Canucks won 4-1 to keeps their hopes of winning the Northwest Division alive.

Mills among Hall inductees

CFL Former Lion Jim Mills has been named to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame's class of 2009.

Mills, along with Alondra Johnson, Rudy Phillips, Glen Weir and Tony Anselmo will be officially inducted during ceremonies in Winnipeg in September. Mills collected three CFL All-Stars honours (1988, 1990, 1991). The Vancouver native also received the nod as the league's Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman in 1990 and '91.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

CFL The Lions announced yesterday that offensive lineman Sherko Haji-Rasouli has agreed to a contract extension, keeping him with B.C. through 2011.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws

This month, Workology will be running our exclusive pet industry feature series, Paws and Claws. If you would like your pet to appear atop the daily Paws and Claws story (like 20-month-old Navy the rottweiler here) email douglas.dunlop@metronews.ca

Workology

Want to be a vet?

Veterinary medicine is not only a competitive field in the professional sense, it's also competetive in the educational sense, with the only schools for vets in Canada being at the universities of Guelph, Montreal, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Channelling a love for animals into a career

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

"The most rewarding thing is ... being able to send (the pets) home."
Veterinarian Dr. Judy Au

When furry, lovable critters get sick, Dr. Judy Au gives them the treatment and care befitting any loved one.

The spirited and passionate veterinarian heads up a Toronto veterinary clinic and also provides expert advice on local cable live call-in show.

Giving advice and healing pets comes naturally to the 43-year-old who says the best part of being an animal doctor is seeing pets and owners go home happy.

Paws and **Claws**

"The most rewarding thing is making sure animals are healthy and being able to send them home with people so they can have their loved ones back," Au said.

Despite having practised veterinary medicine for 16 years, Au's love for animals is as strong as when she was five years old and would bring wounded birds home and try to bandage their broken wings to help them recover.

"As far back as I can recall I've loved animals. I love my career and I've never regretted the choice I've made. For my whole life that's all I ever wanted to do," Au said.

Au usually sees between 100 and 125 animals every week at her clinic and handles every aspect of pet health, from administering medicine and vaccines to performing dentistry and surgery. She says in many ways her work involves her as much with pet owners as it does with pets themselves, since educating owners is an important part of keeping pets healthy.

"You have to look after the animals and the owners at the same time — it's like treating two pets in that you have two lives to look after," Au said.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Dr. Judy Au feeds milk to a blind kitten at her clinic. Au says being a vet is all she ever wanted to do.

Au graduated from the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island in 1993 and says starting out wasn't easy because she had to switch from study mode into thinking about building a career.

"You come out of school and think, 'We've learned so much, how do we narrow it down?' But over time you start to get confident in both treating animals and doing surgery. A mentor is really important," Au said.

Veterinary medicine is a competitive field and only four schools exist currently in Canada.

Au suggests people interested in becoming vets spend some time at a local vet clinic and keep their school grades high to maximize their chances of getting into a program.

"It's not just the love of animals that's going to get you through school, you have to have that passion and the smarts to do the work," Au said.

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:
metronews.ca/work

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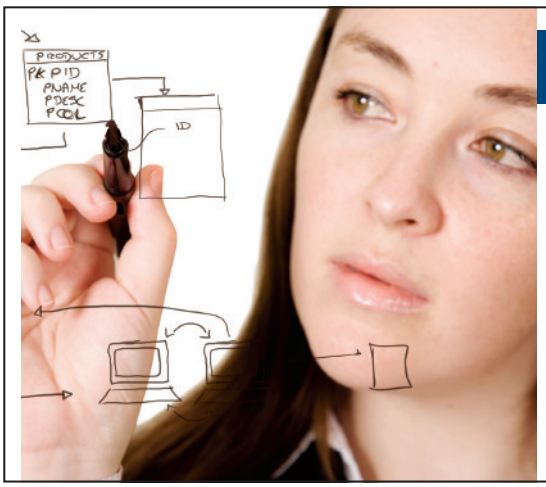

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UBC student threatened school to avoid class presentation
At a sentencing hearing for a University of British Columbia student who made threats against the institution last year, the court heard that Hwi Lee had an intense fear of public speaking and threatened the university in order to avoid having to give an oral presentation. METRO NEWS SERVICES

How to get the right severance

WorkplaceLaw

With unemployment rates at a generational high, many employees are asking "how do you win an employment law case?" Here are four tips for the recently departed. If nothing else, following my advice ought to ensure an appropriate severance package, if not more.

• Always negotiate:
Recently dismissed employees have a tendency to surrender to impulse and sign an inferior severance package only to realize afterwards that more money and protection was available had they just asked. A termination package is a contract, and like any agreement, it is negotiable. In my experience, companies are inclined to negotiate better terms of severance once legal counsel is visible. Leverage is found in the threat of litigation and the associated costs of defending a claim. Therefore, a lawyer's letter, formulated appropriately, can encourage a better deal. If you have obtained proper advice and your former employer is both knowledgeable and reasonable, there is a stronger chance of resolving your situation at an early stage and with a more favourable outcome.

• Strategy:
Dismissal cases are not only about money. They are about psychological stability and strategy. Since the preponderance of lawsuits settle well before trial, the key for dismissed employees is to appreciate when they have great facts on their side — and also when they don't. As the costs associated with litigation act as a deterrent for employees, employers understand that most will accept a reduced settlement at the outset rather than waiting for a trial in order to obtain more. Their early settlement offers often exploit this fear. But if the case is properly advanced, legal costs will follow the result. In other words, assuming you are successful, a majority of your legal costs will be recovered. So, if you have a good case, be prepared to wait; otherwise, you may never collect nearly one hundred cents on your dollar.

Don't be intimdated into signing an unfair severance package.

Similarly, time is not always of the essence — I've seen many recently dismissed employees jump at the first offer of severance they are given simply because they either cannot afford to wait or are afraid they will receive nothing else unless they accept the deal immediately. Timing is rarely the main issue, and generally your right to compensation is not relinquished simply because you have attempted to negotiate better terms.

• Select your lawyer wisely:
The guidance of experienced counsel is imperative to ensure that your case is properly advanced and persuasively argued, and that critical mistakes are avoided. A lawyer's Google rankings have nothing do with his or her legal skill. Similarly, there are no rules limiting lawyers without much experience in employment law from professing that they practise it, on their websites and in the media — and they do. Avoid legal practitioners who merely dabble in employment law, since they may not keep abreast of the recent developments — and worse, employers' counsel often knows who they are.

•Understand an employer's apprehensions:
They have skeletons in their closets as well. Former employees in a position to divert important customers to a competitor or disclose information that, while not confidential, may be particularly damning, for example, almost always hold the cards in negotiations.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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And the IACP Award goes to ...

A16: Food & Wine by Nate Appleman and Shelley Lindgren with Kate Leahy won Book of the Year from the 2009 International Association of Culinary Professionals Awards — essentially winning the Oscar of the cookbook world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Organic chocolate maker Green & Black's is turning the Easter Bunny green by reducing packaging across its premium, organic Easter range by more than 60 per cent. METRO NEWS SERVICES

New egg

Green & Black's is introducing, for the first time ever, premium Butterscotch Mini Eggs into the Canadian Easter range.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Ham and lamb

Easter may be the greatest of all the holidays. As evidence let me offer a classic religious storyline, a gift-giving rabbit, painted eggs, a four day weekend and, wait for it, a fine excuse for some major eating and drinking.

Since I'm all about the liquids I love the fact that Easter is unique in that ham and lamb, and not turkey, are the menu headliners.

When it comes to ham this little piggy likes fruitier wines. Since the meat is salty, and possibly glazed, a juicy gamay- or pinot noir-based red is a perfect match as is a medium sweet white made from riesling.

An off-dry multi-blend white with good acidity is a nice alternative and the **2007 Caymus Conundrum ($26.95 - $29.99)** from California's Monterey County is a knockout that rides a flavour wave loaded with citrus and tropical fruit.

Lamb (no matter the cooking style) prefers reds, especially mature juice from France's Bordeaux and Italy's Chianti region. A Spaniard from the Rioja area like **Grupo Osborne's 2002 Montecillo Reserva ($19.99 - $25.26)** will also do the trick. Aged in oak barrels for at least eighteen months it's a rustic plum fest with touches of black cherry, cedar and spice.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Welcome the Easter Bun-ny

À la carte

Barb Holland

metronews.ca/alacarte

Hot Cross buns have a mixed history. Some say they were part of pagan spring festival and later given the cross by monks wanting to give Christian meaning to the tradition. Other accounts tell of an English widow whose son went off to sea and she vowed to bake him a bun every Good Friday. When he didn't return she continued to bake a hot cross bun for him each year and hung it in the bakery window in good faith that he would return. The English kept the tradition for her even after she passed away. Holiday traditions often have pagan, as well as Christian roots and many times the symbolism has been changed over time to adapt to those using it in their celebrations.

Hot Cross Buns

While it is now possible to buy Hot Cross Buns year-round, there is nothing quite like fragrant, soft and spicy homemade buns. Makes 12 buns.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 egg
- 1 cup (250 ml) warm milk, approximately
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) melted butter
- 3 cups (750 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 ml) each: salt and cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each nutmeg and cloves
- 1 - 1/2 tsp (7 ml) bread machine/instant yeast
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) currants
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) chopped mixed candied peel

Glaze:

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each granulated sugar and water

Icing:

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) icing sugar
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) vanilla
- 1 - 2 tsp (5 -10 ml) milk

BARB HOLLAND/FOR METRO CANADA

There's nothing like homemade Hot Cross Buns.

METHOD:

In a 2 cup (500 ml) measure, light beat egg. Add enough milk to make 1-1/4 cups (300 ml). Add sugar, butter and yeast, stir and pour in a large bowl or bowl of standing mixer. Let sit 5 minutes.

In another bowl, combine flour, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, currants and peel. Add to milk mixture and mix at low speed until a dough forms. Using hook attachment (or by hand on lightly floured surface), knead 5 to 6 minutes, or until smooth and shiny, adding more flour if necessary. Place in oiled bowl, turning to coat.

Cover with plastic wrap; let rise in warm place until doubled, about 1-1/2 hours.

Push dough down, transfer to lightly floured surface. Cut dough into 12 even pieces (follow directions above from this point for shaping and baking).

Glaze:

In small saucepan (or microwavable glass measure), stir sugar with water. Heat over medium heat until sugar is dissolved. Brush over warm buns. Let buns cool on baking sheet.

Icing:

Combine icing sugar, vanilla, and just enough milk to make an icing consistency. Spoon or pipe a cross on buns.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Urban Foodie

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Signature Drink: Hollywood
Signature Dish: Red Curry Mussels
Rating: ●●●●
Dinner & drinks for 2: $75

The Flying Tiger has been open for more than a couple of years, and had somehow stayed under my radar until last month, when a chance drop-in kindled my gastronomic interest.

Salt Spring Island mussels ($15) in Panang red curry were plump, juicy chews in a sauce good enough to serve on its own — especially with the puffy chili fry bread for dipping. A tempura sushi roll ($14.50) of fresh B.C. Albacore tuna belly topped with tasty seaweed "caviar" was a surprisingly hearty dish, sided with grilled shitakes. Grilled Korean-style beef short ribs ($14) were fork-tender, chili-infused wonders.

A favourite was the bowl of pulled duck confit ($14), which you spooned onto sesame oil crepes along with jicama-cucumber salad and fresh Vietnamese mint, coriander and basil. Hong King-style shrimp dumplings ($7) were less interesting — I learned they're the only item not made on the premises — being too small, too chewy (the filling) and too mushy (the wrapping).

Still, it's a great collection of Eastern flavours, well thought out and crafted, with inventive local twists that will always lure repeat diners.

On the web

- Read the full article online at metronews.ca/vancouver/columnist/40411.
- Chew more on Anya's blog at metronews.ca/vancouver/blog/136310.

ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Toro sushi tempura, seaweed "caviar" and grilled shitakes.

Mendoza's Bodega Catena Zapata Blends Wonders

I tasted this Argentinean winery's offerings for the first time at the recent wine festival and was blown away by the complexity, depth and flavour of their flagship label, the 2005 Nicolás Catena Zapata, a Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec blend that's generally three parts Cab to one part Malbec. Aged 24 months in new French oak, it has a dark, almost violet colour, a nose of berry, mineral and pepper notes with a palate of cassis, black currant, tobacco and vanilla. Great for drinking now or cellaring. SRP $110 at private wine stores. catenawines.com.

Dining out

A SPECIAL LUNCH

On Sunday, April 26, Senova Restaurant (1864 West 57 Ave.) will host a special three-course lunch featuring Portugal's wine producing regions. Joao Silva e Sousa, winemaker at Quinta de Veiga, will be in attendance. Reception starts at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are $60. 604-684-0445 or visit marquis-wines.com.

A SPANISH SPLASH

For the month of April, Chef Romy Prasad of So.Cial at Le Magasin (332 Water St.) is presenting "A Splash of Spain," a tapas-style offering of Spanish dishes, in addition to their regular menu. Order individual plates or choose any five for $25. Call 604-669-4488 for more info or to make reservations.

Vancouver Community College

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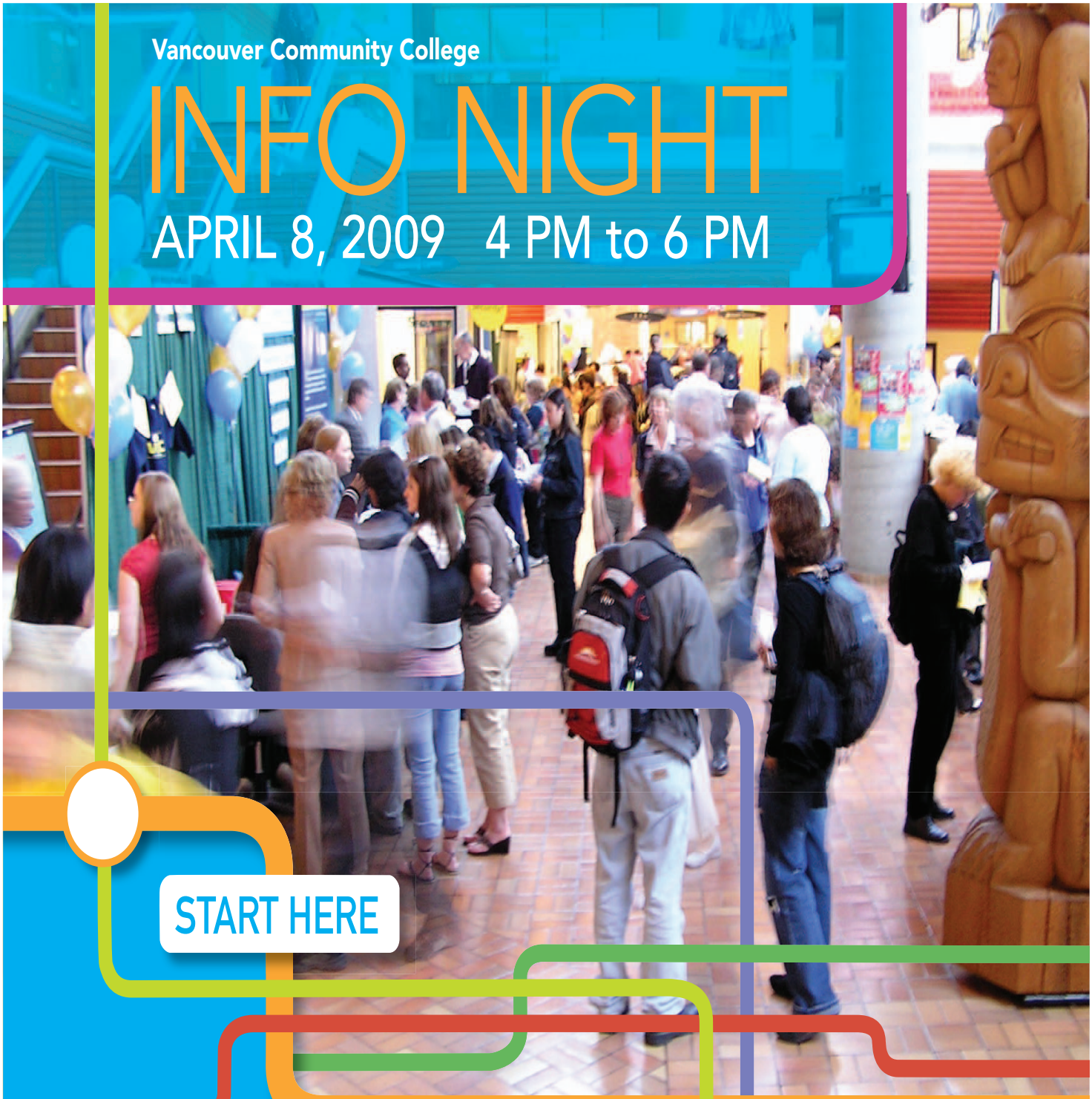
APRIL 8, 2009 4 PM to 6 PM



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VCC'S NEW CAMPUS

EXPANSION

An exciting new $55-million Broadway campus expansion gives VCC the space to enhance programming and better support student success.

VCC's new building is seven storeys tall and 133,000 square feet, with roughly 36 classrooms and 24 high-tech training labs and simulated hospital wards that give students realistic hands-on experience.

It can serve more than 1,000 full-time students in programs including: nursing, home support/ resident care, medical laboratory technician, medical office assistant, pharmacy technician, nursing unit clerk, occupational/physical therapist assistant and others.

D0246 - April 6 + 8.2009 — Wall sculpture *Double Blind*, 2008 by Antonia Hirsch.

EASY ACCESS

VCC is the largest college in B.C. for academic upgrading, helping students move into trades training, career programs and further education.

OPPORTUNITIES

Kumba Moseray ▶
Sierra Leone refugee, Moseray, won a scholarship to VCC's automotive collision repair program last fall and is now starting an exciting career as an automotive painter.

FUTURE

Rochelle Garrison ▶
This VCC graphic design student, entered a contest to get a free Applied Arts magazine and won a national award instead. Garrison, now a grad, is a graphic designer at an engineering firm.

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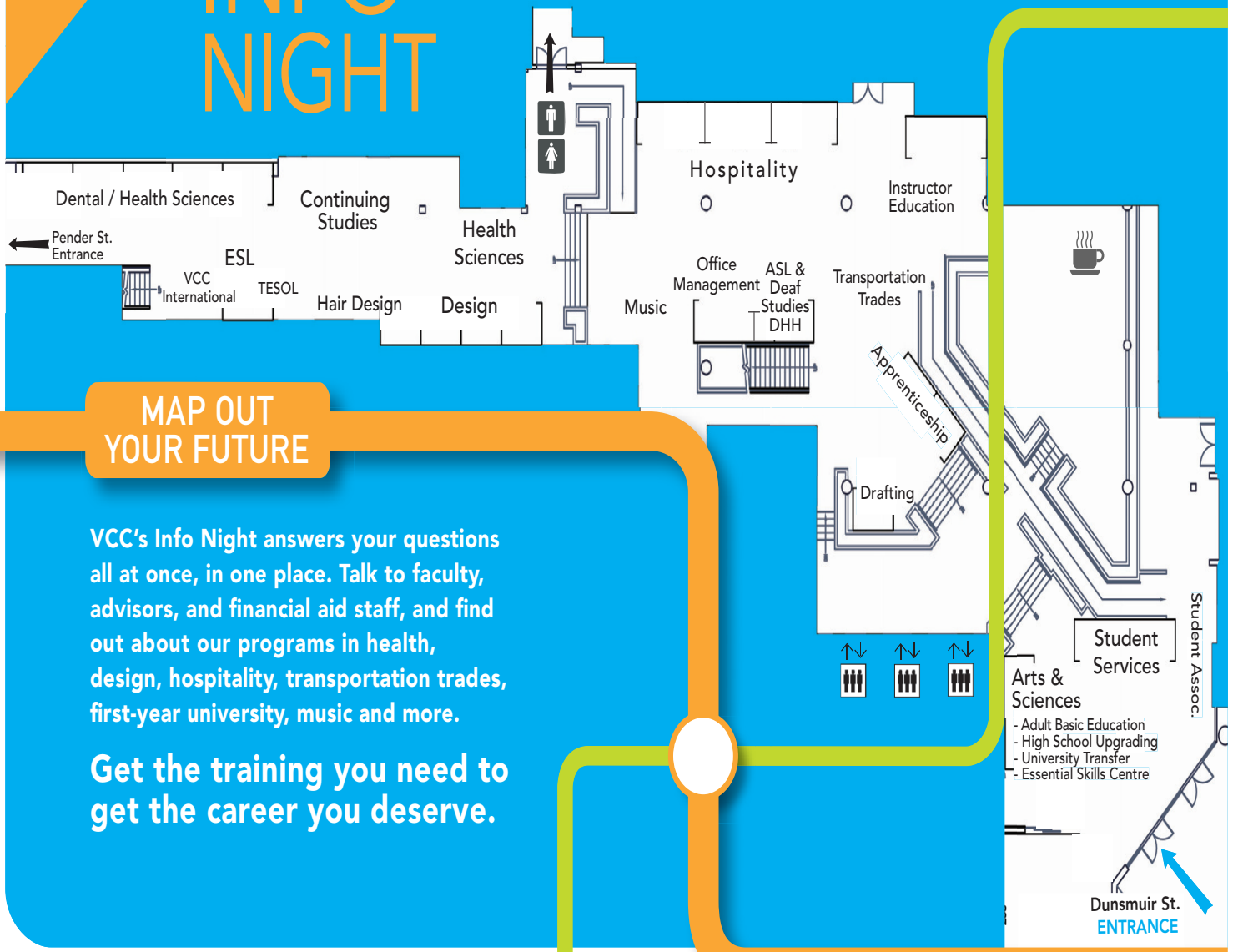
April 8, 2009 4 PM to 6 PM

VCC downtown campus (Dunsmuir at Hamilton)



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A CUT ABOVE

Steve Jui ▶

Recent VCC hair design graduate, lives with the notion that serving others is the key to success – it underlies both his new salon, Juju, on the edge of Yaletown and his success as a student leader while at VCC.

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Savvy Savoy
AskMen.com's list of this year's hottest new restaurant openings around the globe is led by London's Savoy Grill, which will be run under the watchful eye of celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay. REUTERS

Travel

Little Mermaid's big trip

The beloved statue that keeps watch over Copenhagen's harbour is leaving Denmark for the first time: The Little Mermaid will travel to China to be the centrepiece of her country's pavillion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. But the harbour won't be abandoned: China is sending a yet-to-be-unveiled statue to keep the Little Mermaid's place for her. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Vienna learns how to loosen up

JENNIFER LESIEUR
Metro World News

When one thinks of Vienna, clichéd images come to mind: Society balls, Johann Strauss, perhaps even Freud. Indeed, Austria remains close to its traditions, but in the last few years Vienna has seen a growth in new stylish neighbourhoods and contemporary buildings. The 7th district is the most dynamic, and you can easily reach the following places there on a leisurely walk, which is the best way to take in the city.

Looking up inside Vienna's MuseumsQuartier complex.

Modern art explodes

The flagship of this new dynamism, the MuseumsQuartier, is one of the 10 largest cultural complexes in the world, and offers more than 50 facilities for modern art in 60,000 square metres of space. The 1723 façades house the big grey building of the Museum of Modern Art (MuMok), which is currently exhibiting a retrospective of Austrian painter Maria Lassnig and violent photographs by Nam June Paik.

The Leopold Museum houses paintings by Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka, whereas the beautiful Kunsthalle programs concerts, conferences and performing arts. The Kultur Schock is a sort of festival with dance, electronic music and theatre, held here every summer, mqw.at.

Near to the MuseumsQuartier you will find the Quartier21, an area that's home to showrooms, cafés, and shops dedicated to vintage video games, local designers, and one dedicated to the Lomo, the brand of cult, ultra-simple cameras that's based here in Vienna.

There's even a music shop where you can burn your own compilation of Austrian modern music — including Cheap Records and G Stone labels, for electro fans — on CD, legally, musiktank.at.

Cafés like home

Vienna's cafés deserve their homely, cosy reputation. Every generation goes there to drink a tasty melange (local coffee with milk), in a historic setting. Make no mistake: there's nothing stiff or old-fashioned here. You can order your coffee, borrow the papers and sit all day, and nobody will ask you to leave.

To return to the XXIth century, have a rest at Café Phil, in front of traditional Café Sperl. Vintage armchairs, books, vinyl records and DVDs make you feel like you're hanging out in a friend's living room. Another popular must-see is Das Möbel (10, Burggasse), part-café, part furniture showroom, where you can have a good brunch sitting at tables and chairs you can buy. To purchase new versions, go to the Das Möbel shop, 11, Gumperdorfestrasse.

Consume wisely

Vienna is fond of multifunctional places that reunite useful with attractive. The Saint Charles company (33, Gumpendorferstrasse), for example, offers a shop with bio-cosmetics, healthy products and shiatsu massages with all-natural ingredients. Stylish and minimalist, this ex-pharmacy still houses the antique cabinets from its former life (saint.info).

Gabarage is into useful design: The company salvages old materials from factories and recycle them into furniture, bags, and home decor. The designers are ex-drug addicts or ex-convicts, giving them a job and a way to reintegrate into society. Not only are the products worthy, they're also fun; 6, Schleifmühlgasse, gabarage.at.

Next door, gourmets will enjoy Babette's, a nice cookbook shop and a kitchen where you can have a quick lunch or take cookery lessons; 17, Schleifmühlgasse.

The sound of Vienna

If you're planning a night out, the Flex remains the club of the city — the place to get your fill of new tunes (Donaukanal/Augartenbrücke). If you prefer wandering from one place to another, hit the Gürtel district, no longer a no-go area.

Wondering where to eat when you've spent all your cash on clubs and galleries? Step back in time at Trzesniewski (1, Dorotheegasse, near Albertina Museum), which offers thousands of different types of sandwiches. Near the Staatsoper, Bettelstent Student is a wood-panelled pub with Austrian dishes and beer at affordable prices. For a quick snack, you'll find are hundreds of sausage sellers all over the city. Night and day, during all seasons of the year, a smoky bratwurst with sweet mustard and rye bread will get you back on your feet.

Vienna

- For more information, visit austriatourism.com and wien.info.

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Starring role

A 400-year-old telescope used by the Italian astronomer Galileo, whose discoveries revolutionized astronomy, is the main attraction at an exhibition at Philadelphia's Franklin Institute. Galileo, the Medici, and the Age of Astronomy, runs until Sept. 7. REUTERS

Seeking remedies at the Mercado de Sonora

The Travel Junkie
Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Double, double, toil and trouble. Where does one go to see fire burn and cauldron bubble? One good bet is the Mercado de Sonora, a sprawling outdoor shopping area in the heart of Mexico City that's the Walmart of the witch world.

It's a maze of alleyways stacked with hundreds of stalls, located on Avenida Fray Servando Teresa in the Venustiano Carranza borough.

For locals who dabble in witchcraft, or visitors looking to stray off the typical tourist trail, the Sonora market has all your ritualistic remedies.

You can find everything from antique amulets to medicinal herbs; live snakes to mysterious brews; and animal-shaped ceramic charms to powdered potions for health, wealth and romance.

The market is loosely organized into three parts: Healing herbs, Afro-Cuban paraphernalia and black magic.

Walking amongst the tribal rattlers, taxidermy rabbits and other accessories of the underworld, I met Bertha Gutieriez Montes de Oca, a shaman who has been working in the market for 51 years. The five-foot-nothing elderly woman explained the ritualistic purpose behind the potions.

"Witchcraft plays a central role in Mexican society and medicine," she explained. "In the half-century I've worked here, the market has grown and the faces have changed but people's hopes and desires have stayed the same — hopes for money, love, good luck, marriage and fewer problems at work are among the most popular."

Bertha Gutieriez Montes de Oca, a shaman who has worked in the market for 51 years, points out a range of ritualistic love potions, lotions and sprays.

Navigating a clutter of products that claim to ward off evil spirits, Bertha took me to a set of stalls selling popular love sprays.

For the ladies, there are potions for better sex, long marriage and curbing a boyfriend's flirtations with other women.

For men, the art of seduction is a popular sell. Male customers looking to attract their heart's desire will find Bertha recommends a product called Quita Calzon. As belief has it, men looking for love must first lather their bodies with this powder and think about the woman for whom they yearn. The power of the talcum-like potion will cause the woman in question to succumb to the man's wildest fantasies, all for the equivalent of a few dollars.

Just in case there was truth to the bottles claims, I dabbed on a little "true love" perfume, an aphrodisiac oil that promises to attract Mr. Right. In the rat race of today's dating scene, I figured a little sorcery couldn't hurt.

From there, Bertha showed me a soap called Tapa Voca purchased by women who want to stop gossiping, and a pair of cloth voodoo dolls for women who crave more commitment in their romantic relationships. For every problem, the market sells a solution.

A visit to Sonora market is a culturally significant look into a side of Mexico most tourists don't normally see. I learned that, though these beliefs stem from indigenous knowledge and centuries-old traditional medicine, witchcraft continues to play a big role in contemporary Mexican society. As for that love spray? I'm still waiting.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Metro Drive

VW debuts hybrid tech

Volkswagen has announced that it will offer hybrid powertrain technology in Canada, under its new BlueMotionTechnologies brand, which was unveiled at the recent Vancouver International Auto Show, Canadian Driver reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Giving your car's exterior a good wash is one of the must-dos after winter's onslaught.

Spring cleaning for your wheels

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Now that Canada is showing the first signs of warm weather after a long winter's nap, getting your vehicle prepared for spring consists of more than just putting your snowbrush and ice scraper away. If you want your pride and joy to last for years and minimize the amount of time spent in the shop, follow these essential car care tips that can be done by you or a professional, depending on your level of comfort.

Andrew Michael, owner of Michael Automotive Paint & Design in Barrie, Ont., has been fixing other people's paint problems for years, has restored all manner of vintage British automobiles, and also races an early-'80s Mazda RX-7 that's too wild for the snow, so it sits in storage all winter.

Michael's first suggestion to keep your vehicle in tip-top shape is to give its paint the spa treatment.

"Road tar, environmental pollutants, and all the dirt and grime acquired in the daily drive needs to be removed from your paint, and the surface polished to resist the accumulation of new grime, corrosion or rust," he said.

"While newer paint finishes tend to resist fading and will maintain their shine far better than those of the past, the springtime polish is still not to be overlooked. Most detail shops offer this service that generally consists of a multi-stage system of thoroughly cleaning, compounding and finally polishing and sealing the paint to its original condition."

Also, aluminum wheels should be cleaned in a similar manner to remove all that caked-on brake dust and road slurry.

If you've been using your ride daily throughout the harsh winter months, your best friend should be a pressure washer.

While giving your car's exterior a good wash and close inspection for damage is obvious, try to get as far underneath as you can, getting out at all the salt, sand and crud that's collected there in the last few months.

However, do not be tempted to do the same under your car's hood as getting water in places where it wasn't designed to be can be extremely expensive to repair.

When it comes to mechanical issues, the most obvious — besides the ubiquitous oil change — is to swap your winter tires to your all-season or summer-only rubber.

Beyond that, having inspections done on your cooling and electrical charging systems while at your local garage can prevent surprises.

"While it might have performed well throughout the winter, summertime heat can demand extreme duty from your cooling system," Michael warns.

"Six months of slushy, muddy, salty boots dripping all over your carpeting can make it look like the floor of a hen house with the farmer on vacation."
Auto expert
Andrew Michael

Finally, taking care of the interior will pay off for both your peace of mind and your nose!

"Six months of slushy, muddy, salty boots dripping all over your carpeting can make it look like the floor of a hen house with the farmer on vacation," Michael said. "Though manufacturers go to lengths to protect the floors from this corrosive cocktail, removing the dampness will aide in this and keep your vehicle smelling fresh. Steam cleaning can be done at most detail shops and will extend the look and life of your carpeting."

Extra care for performance cars and convertibles

- For those whose performance cars or convertibles get stowed away come the first signs of fall, there's additional maintenance and care that's needed to get them ready for sun-drenched drives.
- Regardless of the type of vehicle you're taking out of its winter hibernation, first do a visual check to see if anything has taken up a home in your car. Having mice, bugs or birds camping out in warm places in your car isn't uncommon. Clean out the spider webs as well.
- Next, change the oil as engines that haven't operated in months can get seized or damaged without proper attention. Drain and flush your radiator coolant and gasoline in the fuel tank, and replace everything with fresh fluids. Inspect the car's brake lines and calipers and/or drums, because modern brake fluid goes bad with dust, air and moisture.
- "Trim and rubber seals should also be cleaned with the appropriate cleaners and conditioners to ensure they maintain their integrity and or elasticity and to keep from drying out, thereby creating leaks and wind noise," Andrew Michael suggests.

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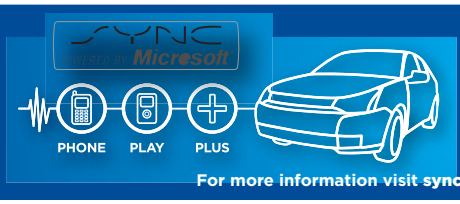

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Spring tire rituals can be divine

Swapping your winter tires for summer ones is a great spring ritual, says Michael Goetz.

Those pagans really knew a thing or two on how to throw a party come springtime. Summer solstice shows up, and they're out there sacrificing left, right and centre, staying up all night pondering the constellations, and hauling huge rocks around to make Stonehenge-like structures ... just generally having a ball.

In comparison, modern Western societies are a bit more muted in their spring rituals. The big ones in our neighbourhood are taking the Christmas lights down, and sweeping the porch.

But if you have a car, you're in luck, because car spring rituals have a bit more party mode about them. And nothing is more symbolic and uplifting than doing that divine swap — taking the winter tires off, and replacing them with the summer ones.

So here's a brief checklist to keep in mind, at that joyous, tire changeover time.

First off, hopefully you've got each set of tires (winter, summer) mounted on their own set of rims. The alternative — mounting and re-mounting tires onto one rim set — can damage the tire beads.

Ideally, your summer tires should be balanced before they go back on, and then the car should be checked for alignment. If you got expensive rims and tires, you need to do this to protect your investment and get all the performance you paid for.

But if you're on a budget, you might modify this a bit. If the tires ran fine when they came off, chances are they will run fine now. The tire installer can determine a lot just by visually inspecting the tires. If they're not wearing unevenly, maybe you don't need the alignment — at least until a road test proves otherwise.

Make sure your nuts are lubed with anti-seize. This makes rims so much easier to take on and off. A professional installer should do that automatically, but it doesn't hurt to ask.

Same thing for tire rotation. A pro will mark each tire in chalk, which corner of the car it was last mounted, so the next installer can rotate them appropriately. But this doesn't automatically happen all the time, so get it on the work order.

I'm pretty sure any installer will set the correct pressures of your summer tires. After that, it's up to you to visually inspect them, at least once a month.

It's so simple it hurts, but having the correct pressure in your tires is the best, cheapest, and most effective way of having a happy tire. And a happy tire is safer, more fuel-efficient and lasts longer than a grumpy tire.

The final issue with the winter-to-summer tire changeover is storage. Hopefully you got your winter tires back clean, and have a cool, dry place to store them. If you need to keep them in the living room, maybe throw a nice wrap over them that match the drapes.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Car care products explained

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

Putting the sparkle on your ride may not be as easy as it seems.

MAINTENANCE With the days of salt and snow almost over, it's time to get the shine back on your car again. You probably know that it's a bad idea to wash your car with dish soap — but putting the sparkle on your ride, inside and outside, may not always be as easy as it seems. Many questions pop up: What's a glaze? Should you treat your leather? Does dashboard protectant actually cause long-term damage?

Jim Dvorak, a car care specialist at Mothers, a leading car care products company, helps sort out the basics in this interview.

Q If a new car has a warranty on its finish, why bother to wax or take care of it at all?

A A factory warranty is there to protect you to ensure that the paint preparation and application process was sound, that quality paint was used, and that it was cured properly. New-car warranties don't protect you from fallout or oxidation over time, which will occur naturally if paint is not waxed or cared for properly. Car wax, whether synthetic or carnauba (a palm tree derivative), acts as a sacrificial layer between your paint and Mother Nature.

Q Waxes? Sealants? Glazes? Polishes? What's the difference? Do many people get confused shopping for paint care products?

A There are a lot of products out there named to catch the eye of the consumer more- so than to communicate their actual function.

"Wax" has become a segment of products designed ultimately to protect your paint. They traditionally have contained carnauba, though in recent years they might instead contain a synthetic wax or polymer. Some wax products also contain cleaners or polishes, while some are just pure wax.

A "sealant" is essentially a synthetic form of a pure carnauba wax, and can require extensive preparation and drying time, so they're generally sold in the "enthusiast" community to people who don't mind spending all weekend working on their cars.

A "glaze" adds depth and shine while helping to fill in minor defects that normally reflect in the sun and cause a spiderweb-like appearance to the finish. A glaze should always be followed by a pure wax.

Q Should I treat my leather seats? Doesn't the factory treat leather seats so owners don't have to?

A Some factory leathers do have a coating to protect the finish to an extent — though they should also be maintained. A thorough vacuuming of the surfaces, especially the seams, will help to remove grit, which may damage the finish. A routine cleaning and conditioning should still be done next. Some premium leathers benefit from dedicated conditioners with natural oils, while others can get by with a combination cleaner and conditioner.

Q Is it true that some vinyl / plastic protectants can actually damage materials over time? If so, what's important to look out for?

A There are many myths about vinyl protectants — and some of them find their origins many years ago when some products were made of ingredients that did cause problems. The rumours were continued by people who used products as a last-ditch effort to revive their sun-beaten dashboard, only to find it became cracked — not realizing the pressure of applying the product simply accelerated the aging process. In other words, they used the product too late. Quality brands today use modern ingredients, which are safe, so these myths from years ago are no longer valid.

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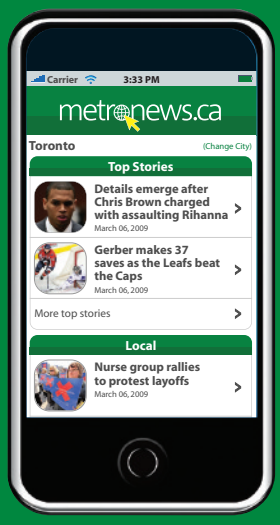

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The Quant, a solar-powered gull-winged electric luxury cruiser.

Sun's the limit

Koenigsegg shines light on green supercars

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

Not content with creating some of the most extreme sports cars on the planet, Swedish car manufacturer Koenigsegg is also making them green.

"We try to make a car with no downsides, only upsides, with no compromise," explains CEO Christian Von Koenigsegg.

Koenigsegg's famously powerful cars first went green with the 2007 CCXR. This eco-friendly version of their CCX supercar can run on regular petrol, but fuelled with E85 Biofuel, it delivers an extra 212 bhp — and an astounding 1018 bhp in total. It's the first green car that does an outrageous 0-100km/h in 3.1 secs, with a top speed of more than 400 km/h.

Now they're taking their eco-credentials one step further with The Quant, a solar-powered gull-winged electric luxury cruiser.

It has a range of 500 km, can recharge in 20 minutes and is covered in a skin of photovoltaic cells that absorb the sunlight and extend the range.

The car is a concept, but they plan to have prototypes ready in three year's time in response to demand. This won't be the car to save the planet. The small but successful company, established by Von Koenigsegg in 1994, only produces a low volume of cars (only 18 last year, 72 total since 2002) and they're hand-crafted from space age materials, giving them an out-of-this-world price tag of up to 1,550,000 euros (more than $2,500,000 CDN).

Von Koenigsegg, who plans to pioneer more green technologies, is enjoying his company's ecological status.

Koenigsegg's clientele, who test the cars at their Swedish HQ at a former fighter jet facility, seek exclusivity, and the eco angle is the cherry on the cake.

"It's a twist to the supercar," he says. "Supercars are about having fun. Part of the fun is knowing you're not impacting on the environment, and contributing to the development of new technologies."

Christian Von Koenigsegg

The big, small SUV

Roomy Toyota Rav4 not short of useful features

The 2009 Rav4 is easy to drive, even when navigating city gridlock, which is unheard of when it comes to most SUVs.

DUSTIN A. WOODS
for Metro Canada

2009 Toyota Rav4

Type: SUV
Price: from $30,235
Engine: 2.5L V4 and 3.5L V6
HP: 179 (V4); 269 (V6)
Torque: 172 ft-lb (V4); 246 ft-lb (V6)

Highlights

- Compact yet spacious
- Fuel efficient

While advertisers would like you to believe that bigger is always better regardless of whether the topic is department stores, dish detergent or diners, some people aren't into thinking big just for the sake of it.

Aside from the fuel mileage and social stigma, there are actually many benefits that come with owning an SUV that don't involve intimidating pedestrians. Having additional space to carry the tiny sprigs of your family tree with the peace of mind that come from an elevated driving position and four-wheel-drive are but a few reasons drivers abandoned the minivan and station wagon years ago.

Smaller SUV's have become commonplace for most manufacturers, which blend the aforementioned advantages within a package that is more likely to fit your finances, not to mention your garage.

Launched as a 1996 model, the original Rav4 was the first SUV to be built on the chassis of a car. The Corolla-based mini SUV was offered in both two and four door versions. While it was debatable which model was the more hideous of the two, the Rav4 has always enjoyed a decent-sized audience, primarily with women as a matter of fact.

It seems that blending small, fuel-efficient engines and off-road capabilities have become a winning formula for Toyota.

Thankfully, the mini off-roader was completely revamped in 2000 without the aquarium-sized windows and with less plastic Lego body cladding.

The third generation model was redesigned in 2006 and has received a facelift for 2009. Changes include a re-styled grille and bumpers, active headrests for the front seats and a more powerful 2.5L four-cylinder engine that boasts 179 hp and 172 ft-lbs of torque.

A 3.5-litre V6 mated to a five-speed automatic transmission is available on all trim levels, producing a respectable 269 hp and 246 ft-lbs of torque while getting the four-cylinder-like fuel economy numbers.

The Rav4 is offered in three variations: Base, Sport and Limited, which are available in both four- and six-cylinder engine configurations with a four-speed automatic transmission as standard equipment.

The third generation Rav may still be considered a mini SUV, but it offers a roomy interior big enough for five adults, 73 cubic feet of cargo space and an available third row for the little tykes in Base and Limited form.

The Rav4 is easy to drive, even when navigating cramped parking garages or city gridlock, which is unheard of when it comes to most SUVs.

While the V6 version hits zero-60 mph in just over seven seconds, the four-cylinder version left something to be desired in the performance department with only marginally better fuel efficiency than its V6 counterpart. Handling is precise and predictable.

Standard features for the base RAV4 include 16-inch steel wheels, keyless entry, cruise control, a tilt/telescoping steering wheel and a six-speaker stereo with a CD/MP3 player and auxiliary audio jack. The Sport version adds rear tinted windows, 18-inch alloy wheels, a sport-tuned suspension, foglights and heated side mirrors.

Subaru to unveil 2010 Legacy

DEBUT Subaru Canada, Inc. (SCI) announced that the all-new 2010 Legacy sedan will debut this Friday at the New York International Auto Show, with bolder design language and a larger midsize package.

The 2010 Subaru Legacy

Legacy, renowned for its sporty handling and reliability, has been further enhanced with a longer wheelbase, a revised suspension design, 100 mm (almost four inches) of added rear seat legroom, and a new powertrain lineup that includes the new Subaru LineartronicT CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission).

The Legacy lineup for 2010 offers four well-equipped models — 2.5i, PZEV, 2.5GT, and 3.6R — along with several option packages for even more performance, comfort, and luxury. And, of course, every Subaru is equipped with Symmetrical full-time All-Wheel Drive. Legacy is the only midsize sedan equipped with this performance- and safety-enhancing system as a standard feature. **FROM CARGUIDE**

Be an eco-bride

Recently married Canadians can do their act of green this April by buying or selling a gently used wedding dress. For more information, visit SmartBrideBoutique.ca, a free, local, online classifieds site in nine cities across the country. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Holding the key to chic

Being a keyholder has never been so fashionable — now comes Tiffany & Co.'s new Key Collection, inspired by the company's own key archives. Suspended from fine, ball or oval-link chains, designs include medallion, heart, flower-topped and diamond-adorned keys. The sterling silver keys start at $130 and $65 for the chain; prices vary for the diamond and platinum versions. To find a store near you, call 1-800-TIF-0110 or visit tiffany.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Try a hat trick this spring

Punctuate your look with the season's hottest tête-toppers

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Men, shelve your wax and gel. Ladies, ditch those barrettes and headbands.

There's a new tête-topper in town, and without one, your spring style may read like an unfinished statement.

All right, so the hat isn't exactly anything new. Edie Orenstein knows that well. She's the eponymous creator of Vancouver store Edie's Hats. Over the course of the boutique's 25-year history, she's noticed that, while many people often admire hats, they say they'd never wear one.

"Who made up this rule?" asks Orenstein, with a laugh. She says hats are about giving permission to express oneself, likening the body and its fashion accessories to a sentence's nuts and bolts.

"A hat on top of the head is like a punctuation mark on the end of a sentence. When people leave their heads naked, they're not finishing the end of what they're saying. It's a lack of confidence about what they're saying."

DELUXPHOTO

The classic school girl hat from Edie's Hats in Vancouver, $35.

For women wondering how to punctuate their look, Orenstein suggests the classic school girl hat. "It's a round shape that you wear close around the head and has a little peak on it," she says, pointing out the profusion of different fabrics and trimmings the hat can consist of. "It's a cool little cap that pretty well everybody that wears hats has two or three of."

To tailor a more romantic look, circa 1920s, Orenstein recommends a cloche. Named for its shape, the hat is named after the French word for "bell."

"The cloche is probably one of the most popular shapes for women, bar none," Orenstein says. Cloches are made from an assortment of materials like cloth, felt, silk, leather, cotton or linen.

But the most popular icon in hats today, says Orenstein, is the fedora. "The fedora is this amazing creature that is everywhere, all over the world."

It's all over Aldo stores in Canada and the fashion franchise's public relations co-ordinator Michael Pilling encourages the style for men looking to contribute a hat to their closet.

"Fedoras are key!" says Pilling. "The fedora adds a stylish retro spin to any man's outfit." And considering the many shapes, colours and styles available, he says a fedora can fit anyone's personal style. "The fedora is a truly versatile hat — casual or chic. This season it's all in the way you wear it: On the back of your head, to the side, or right on top."

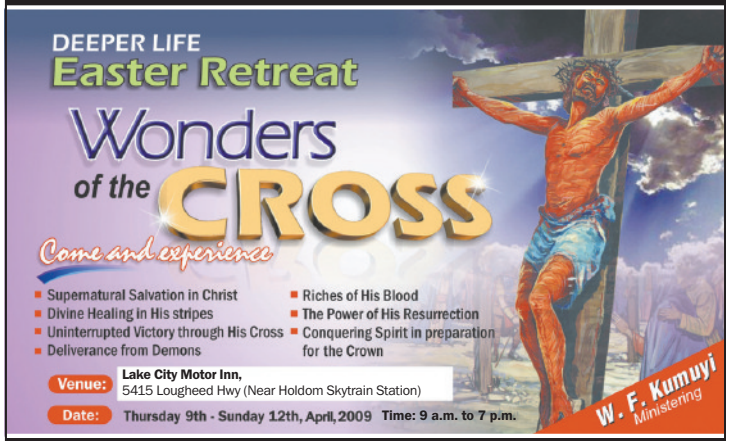
Style coast to coast trends

Urban: "I get clothes from all over and put them together," says Vancouver receptionist Gillian Harris, 24, spotted at Granville and Seymour Streets. She is wearing a coat from Brazil and a skirt from Urban Outfitters.

Chic: "My style icon is Katie Holmes," says Toronto's Ashley McClare, 24, spotted at Yorkville Street and Avenue Road. "My favourite item that I own is my Jas M.B. purse (pictured) ... I (also) love skinny jeans."

Feminine: "I love classic feminine dressing," says Halifax's Simin Soleymani. Spotted at Spring Garden Road and Brunswick Street, this stylish student is carrying a Coach purse and wearing Guess jeans.

Deeper Christian Life Ministry, BC



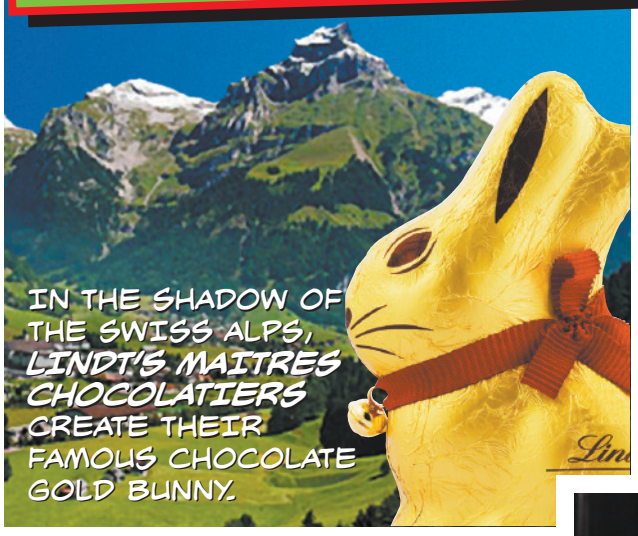
Contact: 778-318-7215

FlareFashion

Lisa Tant

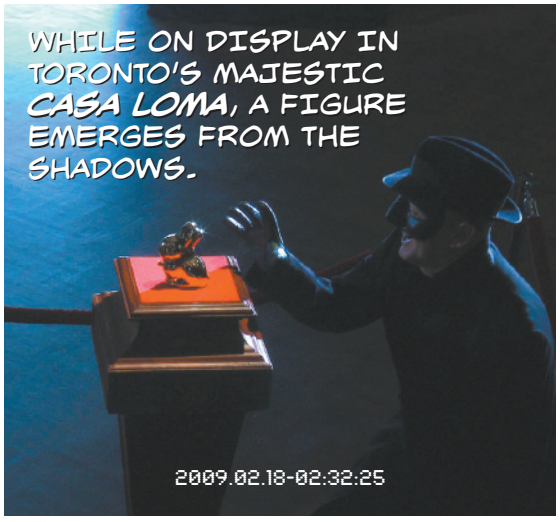
Read the blog at metronews.ca/flarefashion

THE LINDT GOLD BUNNY. HE'S GOLD. AND HE'S GONE!

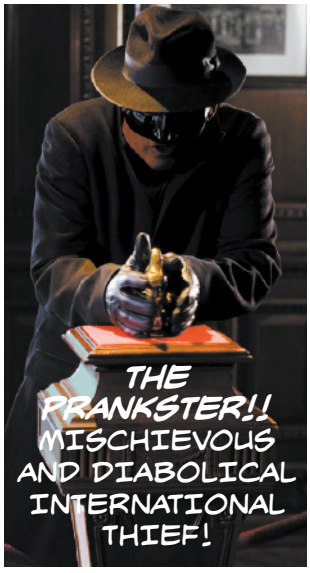


IN THE SHADOW OF THE SWISS ALPS, *LINDT'S MAITRES CHOCOLATIERS* CREATE THEIR FAMOUS CHOCOLATE GOLD BUNNY.

RECENTLY, THEY HAD A *24K GOLD BUNNY* MADE IN HONOUR OF THEIR CHOCOLATE BUNNY. IT WAS SENT ON A *WORLD TOUR* FOR ALL TO MARVEL AT.



WHILE ON DISPLAY IN TORONTO'S MAJESTIC *CASA LOMA*, A FIGURE EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS.



THE PRANKSTER!! MISCHIEVOUS AND DIABOLICAL INTERNATIONAL THIEF!

THE COMPLEX SECURITY SYSTEM IS CHILD'S PLAY FOR *THE PRANKSTER.*

THE 24K LINDT GOLD BUNNY AND *THE PRANKSTER* VANISH INTO THE NIGHT.

EVEN NOW HE MAY BE CHANGING HIS APPEARANCE. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. DON'T LET *THE PRANKSTER* WIN.

$10,000 CASH FOR THE RETURN OF THE 24K LINDT GOLD BUNNY. DON'T LET THE PRANKSTER WIN. GO TO WWW.LINDTGOLDBUNNY.CA

No purchase necessary. Canadian residents eligible to enter. To enter, log onto www.lindtgoldbunny.ca and correctly answer the 5 questions about the location of the GOLD BUNNY statue. Limit one entry per day with this method. Contest is from March 9 to April 12, 2009. Chances of winning depend on number of eligible entries. Mathematical skill-testing question required. For full Contest rules, including other ways to enter, see www.lindtgoldbunny.ca.

Hulk smacks down reality love

Hulk Hogan has turned down the chance to find new love in a reality TV dating show. VH-1 network executives wanted the one-time WWE star to appear in a similar show to rocker Bret Michaels' Rock of Love and rapper Flavor Flav's Flavor of Love. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Not so Desperate

Victoria Beckham is "too busy" to appear on Desperate Housewives. Eva Longoria, who stars on the show, hoped Victoria would land a cameo — but the former Spice Girl can't fit it into her schedule. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Easter on film

Movie **feature**

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Unlike Christmas, with its more marketable associations to Santa Claus, flying reindeer and snowmen that mysteriously come to life, Hollywood typically tends to shy away from the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ and its bizarre association with a bunny that hides chocolate eggs. Go figure.

Still, while Easter may be hard to find at your local multiplex these days, cinema is not without a few classics that mark this season's biggest holiday. So, if you are in the mood for some Easter-themed entertainment, you may consider having a Good Friday at home with one of these five movies instead:

• **THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD (1965):** A chronicle of Christ's life, Max von Sydow stars in what has been described as the "definitive movie of the Easter story." More than that, where else are you able to get Pat Boone, Sidney Poitier, Telly Savalas and Jamie Farr in the same film?

• **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST (2004):** If you want a darker experience this holiday, this Mel Gibson-directed epic is not for the faint of heart. Controversial, shocking and by some accounts, anti-Semitic, The Passion details the excruciating final hours and crucifixion of Christ.

• **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (1956):** Long before Charlton Heston was preaching about the right to bear arms (remember his "pry it from my cold dead hands" speech?) he starred as Moses in this huge Passover epic. Directed by Cecil B. DeMille, this classic follows Moses as he leads slaves from the tyranny of a pharaoh, parting the Red Sea along the way.

• **BEN HUR (1959):** Heston went biblical again three years later, starring as a wrongly-accused prince who sought revenge upon his accuser during the time of Christ. Ben Hur not only won a stunning 11 Academy Awards, but it apparently resurrected MGM studios from bankruptcy.

• **THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (1998):** For a lighter holiday-themed story, look no further than this animated family film. Sure, it's a little disarming hearing Val Kilmer as the voice of Moses when you are used to the boom of Charlton Heston, but this feature stays resonant by dealing in matters of slavery and notions of faith. Funny, I don't remember those issues coming up in Space Chimps.

Charlton Heston starred in the The Ten Commandments.

Hollywood in grip of remake fever

MOVIES The impressive opening of Fast & Furious during the weekend not only proves there's gas in that franchise, it also gives fuel to Hollywood's obsession with movies based on, well, other movies.

The 1980s have turned into a full-fledged garage sale of titles. Romancing the Stone, Footloose, A Nightmare on Elm Street, Dune, The Karate Kid, RoboCop, The Big Chill, Arthur, Ghostbusters, Red Dawn and The NeverEnding Story are but a few of the titles from that decade being developed in Hollywood.

Kiss fans to route upcoming tour

MUSIC Fans will have a say in where Kiss plays on its upcoming tour of the U.S. and Canada.

In a first for a major music act, the rock band's tour will be routed entirely based on demand expressed by fans at social networking site Eventful.

Fans across the U.S. and Canada can cast their votes at eventful.com/Kiss to have their town included on the 2009 North American tour. REUTERS

In brief

CASTING Rob Schneider has joined the cast of the romantic comedy You May Not Kiss the Bride. The project is about an American pet photographer who gets mixed up with Croatian mobsters while on his honeymoon with a gangster's daughter.

CASTING Maria Bello is in final negotiations to join the all-star comedy cast of an untitled film project produced by Adam Sandler. The script revolves around high school friends who reunite 30 years later. Sandler, Kevin James and Chris Rock are part of the ensemble cast. REUTERS

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 4/8/09	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Leonard Cohen-London		Being Erica "Leo"		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News (N)	The Insider	Knight Rider (CC)		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Running-Heels	Women	News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Criminal Minds "Conflicted"		American Idol (CC)		CSI: NY "Prey" (N) (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	Stargate SG-1 "Bane"		Third Watch "A Hero's Rest"		Scrubs (CC)	Buddhism	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Lie to Me "Life Is Priceless"		Holmes in New Orleans (CC)		(:02) The Unusuals "Pilot"		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "Dead Is Dead" (N)		Law & Order "Sweetie" (CC)		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Scrubs (N)	Friends (CC)	Nip/Tuck "Budi Sabri" (CC)		Murdoch Mysteries		The List
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model (N)		America's Next Top Model (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds "Conflicted"		CSI: NY "Prey" (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Law & Order "Knock Off"		Life (Season Finale) (N) (CC)		Law & Order "Sweetie" (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrubs (N)	Better Off Ted	Lost "Dead Is Dead" (N)		(:02) The Unusuals "Pilot"		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Real Cancun ★ (2003) Benjamin "Fletch" Fletcher.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	West Coast	JM Cousteau: Ocean		Rick Steves' Iran Rick Steves travels to Iran. (CC)				Change Your
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me "Life Is Priceless"		American Idol (CC)		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	45 PBS	(6:00) American Masters (N)		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		JM Cousteau: Ocean	
	296	654	64 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	Guthy-Renker	Family Court	Perfect Pullup
	298	653	65 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N)		America's Next Top Model (N)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	MLB Baseball		WGN News	America's Next Top Model (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Friends (CC)		My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Will & Grace	Seinfeld
news	502	390	26 NW	Jelly Fish Invasion (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Jelly Fish Invasion (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Oakland Athletics at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.					Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
sports	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			UEFA Champions League Soccer: Quarterfinal				Poker	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures (CC)		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	410	403	50 SCR	(6:30) NBA Basketball Utah Jazz at Dallas Mavericks. (Live)				Score Tonight		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Thunder	Pinks Out	Pinks	Drag Race	Drag Race
	416	409	144 GLF	Train Like-Pro	Footballers	Gol TV News	Samba	Foot Brazil	Gol TV News	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	In Real Life	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior (CC)		Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN (CC)	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama (N)	American Dad	Chicken	Father	Moral Orel
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53 TRE	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Great Canadian Parks (CC)		Man Made Marvels (N) (CC)		Ode to a Requiem (CC)		Portia White: Think on Me		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Totally "2000"		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	PunchMuch		America's Best Dance Crew		disBand	Born to Be	Spotlight T.I.
	600	564	25 H&G	House	House	Holmes	Holmes	Hid Potential	Unsellable	City	The Stagers	House
	615	520	31 A&E	Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators	Exterminators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Bounty Hunter
	628	584	32 SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		Deadliest Warrior		CSI: NY "Cold Reveal" (CC)		The Ultimate Fighter		Disorderly
	521	560	34 TLC	Jon & Kate, Skiing		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate, Skiing		Mystery Diag.
	616	522	53 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot (N)	Cock'd Gunns	The Starter Wife (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Opera	Broadway	Law & Order "Embedded"		Without a Trace "Two of Us"		Undisputed ★★ (2002) Wesley Snipes. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Spouses		Paradise Hotel
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters Whirlpools.		Dirty Jobs Vermont cheese.		Mayday
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Trojan Horse" (CC)		Outlaw Bikers (CC)		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		NCIS "Trojan Horse" (CC)		Sea Hunters
	627	528	45 SPC	Stormworld	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager "Unity"		Star Trek: Ent.
	294	650	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	My Boys	I Know What You Did Last Summer ★ (1997) (PA) (CC)			
	619	525	48 TROP	Vanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	52 FN	Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Opening Soon	Opening Soon	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ult. Recipe
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore	Martin	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Forgetting Sarah Marshall ★★★ (2008) Jason Segel.				88 Minutes ★ (2007, Suspense) Al Pacino, Alicia Witt. (CC)				Black Book
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) The Robe ★★★ (1953) Richard Burton, Victor Mature.				Acts	Acts	Archaeologist	Archaeologist	Paid Program
	-	-	106 MUL	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Travel TV	Patrol World

critics' corner

Outlaw Bikers

They prefer the distinction "motorcycle club," not "gang," thank you very much. This series, starting its third season, uses stock footage, dramatic re-creations, and interviews with bikers and police officers to give viewers a peek inside these organizations. This season focuses on three notorious groups: the Bandidos, Outlaws and Warlocks. 1 PM on HIS

The New Adventures of Old Christine

Fed up with being the target of the "mean moms" (Tricia O'Kelley, Alex Kapp Horner), Christine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) decides to pull Ritchie (Trevor Gagnon) out of private school and give public school a chance, only to find out that's not as easy as she anticipated. Kathleen Wilhoite ("ER") and Paula Newsome guest star in the new episode "Hair." 8 PM on CBS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

THE TEN SPOT EVERY NIGHT

MTV 10 SPOT

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY

The Hills
10:00pm
The Hills Aftershow
10:30pm

G's to the Gents
10:00pm

The Duel 2
Season Premiere
10:00pm

Taking the Stage
10:00pm

Rob Dyrdek's Fantasy Factory
10:00pm
Nitro Circus
10:30pm

mtv.ca

Tori tries out kids' fashion

Tori Spelling is reportedly planning to design a range of clothing for children. The actress says that her two children inspired her forthcoming Little Maven range, which has long been a dream of hers, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

LiLo and Sam over

BREAKUP After countless rumours and Twitter and MySpace updates, Lindsay Lohan finally made her split from Samantha Ronson official.

"We are taking a brief break so I can focus on myself," Lohan told E! News.

Ronson seems to be taking the split in stride. On her MySpace page, her current mood is listed as "happy."

"Is (Lohan) upset? Yes. Has it been a rough week? Yes," a source close to Lohan told people.com. "But her family's around her and she's just focusing on business right now."

While a source says Ronson's family is hoping the split will be for good, those in Lohan's camp want the actress to focus on herself for a bit.

"The important thing is that she's taking space and time to breathe," the source added to the magazine. "That's what her family is here to do — help make sure she takes care of herself."

Meanwhile, Us Weekly reports that the DJ's family is taking things a bit more seriously, going so far as to seek a restraining order against Lohan.

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Robert's daring audition falls flat

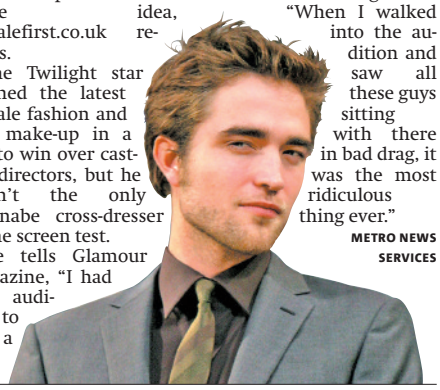
CAREER Robert Pattinson once dressed in women's clothing to audition for a role as a transsexual — but was stunned to see a room full of hopefuls had the same idea, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Twilight star donned the latest female fashion and full make-up in a bid to win over casting directors, but he wasn't the only wannabe cross-dresser at the screen test.

He tells Glamour magazine, "I had an audition to play a transsexual prostitute and thought I'd be the only person going for it, so I went out of my way and put loads of make-up and women's clothing on.

"When I walked into the audition and saw all these guys sitting there in bad drag, it was the most ridiculous thing ever."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kate the cook?

CAREER Supermodel Kate Moss is picking up a new career: Cookbook author.

According to the Daily Mirror, Moss is coming out with a book of her own takes on popular recipes. She reportedly got the idea from her good friend, Stasha Palos, who has also written her own cookbook.

"Kate recently cooked (her boyfriend) Jamie a slap-up Jewish meal following kosher techniques from Stasha," a source tells the newspaper. "She loves her easy-to-follow recipes. It's all she's been talking about."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Behind the scenes at the Hills

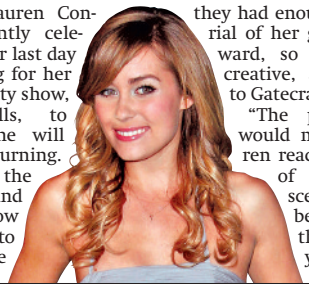
PEOPLE Lauren Conrad recently celebrated her last day of filming for her MTV reality show, The Hills, to which she will not be returning.

But the folks behind the show wanted to make sure they had enough material of her going forward, so they got creative, according to Gatecrasher.

"The producers would make Lauren react to a lot of potential scenarios, because they're not yet sure how the finale will play out with the other characters," says a source.

"They would literally give her directions like, 'Now react to Stephanie Pratt being pregnant!' Lauren would just giggle and go for it. She also had to pretend to react to a fake story line about Audrina and Brody hooking up."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Amy back to usual antics

PEOPLE Back at her Caribbean retreat on St. Lucia for barely a week, and Amy Winehouse is already up to her usual antics.

The troubled singer reportedly shocked fellow resort guests by streaking half-naked through a kid-packed pool area after being told she couldn't hang out on the beach topless, according to the Daily Mail.

"Everyone was shocked," said an onlooker. "One minute Amy was relaxing with friends on the beach and the next she was running around half-naked."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Angie not eating?

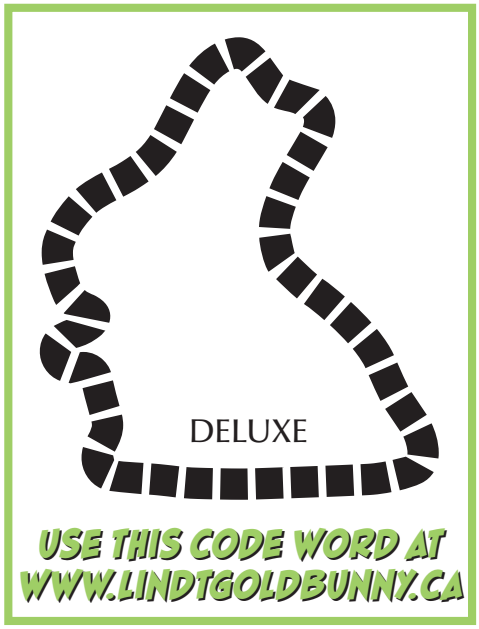
RUMOUR While shooting her latest film, Salt, in New York, Angelina Jolie reportedly collapsed and had to seek medical attention, according to Britain's Now Magazine.

Sources claim that the trouble stems from the fact that Jolie hasn't been eating properly and working overtime.

"She collapsed between takes, complaining of shortness of breath and dizzy spells. She never eats properly when she's upset," a source tells the magazine.

"Food is the last thing on her mind. She'll ignore breakfast, pick at lunch and skip dinner."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Birds and bees talk not awkward for Zac

PEOPLE Zac Efron says parents must be "passionate" about sex, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The High School Musical actor — who is dating his co-star Vanessa Hudgens — says it is important for adults to be enthusiastic when discussing sex and contraception with their children.

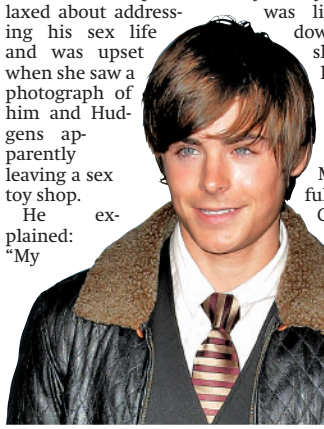
Speaking about his talk with his father David Efron, Zac said: "I just feel like my dad, at one point, had that conversation with me and my little brother, and always delivered it very well. He was very passionate about it."

The 21-year-old hunk recently admitted his mother Starla is not quite so relaxed about addressing his sex life and was upset when she saw a photograph of him and Hudgens apparently leaving a sex toy shop.

He explained: "My mom is like, 'Zac, what did you buy in a sex shop?' I was like, 'Mom, calm down, it's not a sex shop.' She wouldn't have any of it.

"She's like, 'I knew you were being sexual!' But she understood. My stocking was full of condoms this Christmas. She buys me the economy box."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Madonna and Guy play nice

PEOPLE As Madonna struggles with her failed attempt at adopting another child from Malawi, she has found one source of moral support: Ex-husband Guy Ritchie.

The director reportedly met Madonna and their children at the airport when they returned from Malawi.

As the plane touched down, he ran up the steps to greet the kids, with adopted son David Banda running into his arms for a hug, reports Britain's Daily Mail.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Friday Variable 11°/ 6°
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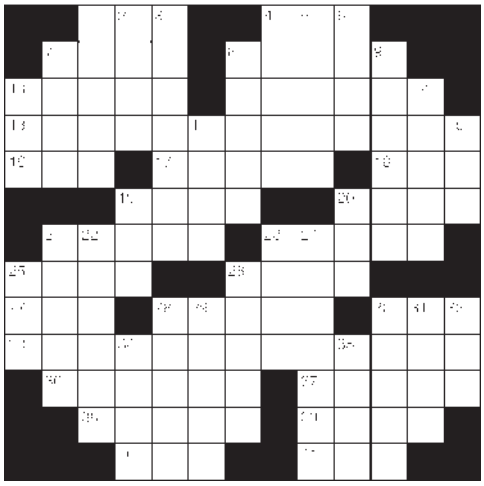
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Roman "Aloha"
4 Scrooge's outcry
7 Pinnacle
8 Regional
10 Rx, for short
11 French painter
13 With 33-Across, aphorism
16 Lair
17 Neckwear of a sort
18 Aye undoer
19 Son, on the Seine
20 Tour de France need
21 "Goosebumps" author
23 Home
25 Moby's pursuer
26 Suitable
27 Supporting
28 Flight component
30 Irate
33 See 13-Across
36 Asian capital
37 Throwing game ring
38 Jockey's handful
39 — Major
40 Pop
41 — out a living

Crossword down

1 Chef's garb
2 Bridal cover
3 Clarify
4 Drum type
5 Uneasiness
6 Rodgers collaborator
7 Farm fraction
8 Galvanizing agents
9 Nikita's successor
10 Despondent
12 Cobra or copperhead
14 Capri, e.g.
15 Storm center
19 Teensy tale
20 Tarzan's son
21 Piglet
22 Toothpaste target
23 Related (to)
24 Embellished style
25 Kabul's land (Abbr.)
26 Refuge
28 Old photo tint
29 Pollster's find
30 Deer kin
31 Largest of the seven
32 "Spring ahead" hrs.
34 Wasted no time
35 Gloom

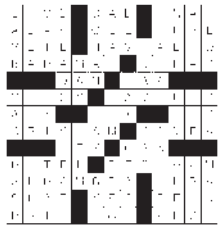
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7		6		3	2			4
	2		8					7
	4		5				3	
5							2	
		1	3		4	6		
	3							5
	9				6		8	
1					3		9	
8			7	9		4		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	3	6	4	2	9	1	7	5
7	9	5	8	1	3	6	4	2
1	2	4	7	6	5	3	8	9
9	8	1	6	3	7	2	5	4
6	5	2	1	9	4	7	3	8
3	4	7	2	5	8	9	1	6
5	1	3	9	8	6	4	2	7
4	6	8	3	7	2	5	9	1
2	7	9	5	4	1	8	6	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Beef Bean Chili

INGREDIENTS:

1 small red pepper
1 small, fresh red chili pepper
1 medium onion
2 tbsp (25 ml) canola oil
1 lb (500 g) extra-lean ground beef
1 tbsp (15 ml) paprika
1 tbsp (15 ml) ground cumin
3 cloves garlic
1 can (19 oz/540 mL) chopped tomatoes
2 tsp (10 ml) tomato paste
1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano
1/2 cup (125 ml) red wine, or beef stock
Salt
1/2 tsp (2 ml) sugar
2 scallions
1 can (19 oz/540 ml) kidney beans
8 soft flour tortillas
4 tbsp (60 ml) sour cream

METHOD:

1. Rinse, dry, deseed and chop pepper and chili pepper. Set chili pepper aside. Peel and chop onion.
2. Heat oil in large, flameproof casserole pan or braising pan and fry pepper, onion, beef, paprika and cumin over moderate heat. Stir constantly, until meat browns.
3. Peel and crush garlic. Add to the casserole pan with chili, canned tomatoes and their juice, tomato paste, oregano, wine or stock, salt and sugar. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer 15 minutes.
4. Rinse, dry, and chop scallions; set aside. Preheat broiler to high to warm tortillas.
5. When beef chili has been cooking for 15 minutes, drain and rinse kidney beans, stir into the casserole pan and cook 5 minutes. Heat tortillas under broiler.
6. Transfer chili to four serving dishes, then add a 1 tbsp (15 ml) sour cream to each, sprinkle scallions over top, and serve with tortillas.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Something inspiring occurs in a danger zone. A lost person takes pleasure in your company. Listening to an authority is more enjoyable.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A daydream is a brief pleasure trip. Someone won't agree to a change. Make a plan to satisfy an appealing woman.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
An imperfect man's easy-going approach works the best. Someone needs to be referred to a specialist. Learn to be patient during hard times.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
There aren't too many people giving you advice. A medical issue leads to a quick solution. Someone is sorry about their missed chances.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Do the right thing when a girl says no. A soft-hearted person is fun to watch. Treat yourself to one of your favourite things.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You want more time with someone. Moody people can't stop dancing around a problem. An opportunity is beneath you.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Avoid making late phone calls. Someone helps you to make your life change. You won't believe sympathetic remarks.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Being impulsive can do wonders for your health. An enthusiastic guy will smile at you. A man changes the pace of a romance.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Spend time pleasing the people who love you. You're not sure of what you want. An insensitive woman grants a favour.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You need to get more sleep. Somebody doesn't want to be a hero anymore. A sweetheart comes up with a solution.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Keep an open mind with a special friend. An idea is strictly for fun. Don't discuss finances with a stubborn person.

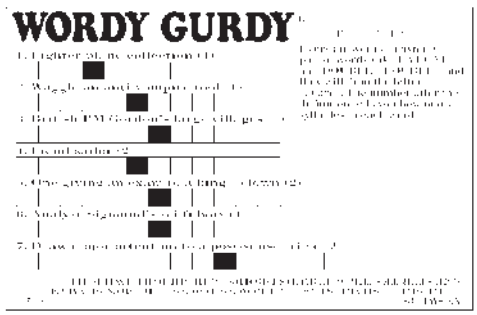
PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Other people are stressed out over money. A romantic prospect demands more attention. Listen to your heart for greater understanding.

This day in history

APRIL 8, 217: Roman Emperor Caracalla is assassinated (and succeeded) by his Praetorian Guard prefect, Marcus Opellius Macrinus.
APRIL 8, 1893: The first recorded college basketball game occurs in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.
APRIL 8, 1904: British mystic Aleister Crowley transcribes the first chapter of the Book of the Law.
APRIL 8, 1904: Longacre Square in Midtown Manhattan is renamed Times Square after The New York Times.
APRIL 8, 1975: Frank Robinson manages the Cleveland Indians in his first game as major league baseball's first African American manager.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY



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LOWER MAINLAND

Vancouver
551 Robson St.
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
2163 West 4th Ave.
501 West Georgia St.
101 - 925 West Georgia St.
5720 East Blvd.
689 Thurlow St.
3 - 1855 Burrard St.
3343 West Broadway
2748 Rupert St.
1 - 525 Seymour St.
150 - 625 Howe St.
105 - 950 West Broadway
1707 Robson St.
1092 Kingsway
10 - 3490 Kingsway

Aldergrove
310 - 26310 Fraser Hwy.

Abbotsford
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
2 - 32915 South Fraser Way
1 - 2142 Clearbrook Rd.
401 - 2140 Sumas Way

Burnaby
Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
214B - 4501 North Rd.
4711 Kingsway
7531 Market Crossing
111 - 3823 Henning Dr.
204B - 3430 Brighton Ave.

Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
103 - 45300 Luckakuck Way
11 - 45905 Yale Rd.
7544B Vedder Rd.

Cloverdale
201 - 17725 64th Ave.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
101 - 3278 Westwood St.
5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2700B Barnet Hwy.
22 - 2988 Glen Dr.
2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

Delta
Scottsdale Mall
7235 120th St.
1517 56th St.

Langley
Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
3 - 19638 Fraser Hwy.
103 - 19700 Langley Bypass
C104 - 20159 88th Ave.
19971 96th Ave.
C7 - 20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
22661 Lougheed Hwy.

Mission
100 - 32670 Lougheed Hwy.
318 - 32555 London Ave.

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Port Moody
202 Newport Dr.

Pitt Meadows
735 - 19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond
Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Centre Mall
Ironwood Mall
Lansdowne Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Guildford Town Centre
201 - 13734 104th Ave.
135 - 12477 88th Ave.
2404 King George Hwy.
1675 128th St.
108 - 7380 King George Hwy.
403 - 15940 Fraser Hwy.
10310A 152nd St.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre
North/South

White Rock
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
10 - 3189 King George Hwy.

OKANAGAN/NORTHERN BC

Aberdeen Mall (Kamloops)
Northills Centre (Kamloops)
Orchard Park Mall (Kelowna)
Spall Plaza (Kelowna)
Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Penticton)
Pine Centre (Prince George)
Piccadilly Mall (Salmon Arm)
Village Green Mall (Vernon)

Whistler
7009 Nesters Rd.

Squamish
38116 2nd Ave.